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[James Rolmes, Took's COURT.]

#### REVIEWS

The Wasps of Aristophanes: with Notes. By T. Mitchell, A.M. &c. Murray.

LEARNING and taste are as conspicuous in Mr. Mitchell's edition of 'The Wasps,' as in that of the 'Acharnenses,' to whose merits we recently bore willing testimony; but, unfortunately, his political prejudices are still more glaringly displayed, and they have led him, with suicidal vehemence, to accuse the Athenian democracy of crimes refuted in the very terms of his own charge, and of m the very terms of his own charge, and of follies contradicted by his own statement. This is the more provoking, as 'The Wasps' is precisely the play in which Aristophanes least forcibly urges the cause of the aristocratic party, to which he was so warmly attached: he attacks an individual rather than a generic folly; and it is only by complete distortion of his meaning, that the object of his satire is made an entire nation instead of a limited class.

To vindicate all the eccentricities, or even the delinquencies, of the Athenian "mob of gentlemen," would be a hopeless task; but in what nation, whether ancient or modern, cannot there be found public madness and public guilt running riot for a time, and triumphing for a time over morality and common sense? Would it be just to describe English monarchy as the worst possible form of government, because the learned and the honourable of the royal party applauded the profligate cruelty that sent Russell and Sydney to the scaffold? Would it be just to brand, as iniquitous, either of the great parties that divide England, because the Popish plot was patronized by the one, or the Ryehouse plot the other? The Republic of Athens exhibited the influence of freedom in all its strength and all its weakness: the history of Athens has consequently been the great store-house that supplied weapons qually to the friends and enemies of liberty. We mingle not in these controversies; our only duty is to see that the combatants fight fair; and we regret to add, that Mr. Mitchell has not adhered to the laws of the literary

We have called his vehemence "suicidal;" he assumes that Aristophanes has justly described the Athenian populace (Demus) as intolerant, impatient of rebuke, vindictively resenting the slightest attack on its sovereignty. Why, the very drama in which these charges were made ('The Knights'), was acted before that very populace, amid the loudest applause. The people saw them-selves personified as Demus, an old drivelling idiot, cheated by his friends, derided by his enemies, and duped by the most contemptible of mankind. They saw the popular favourite, the hero of the day, Cleon, brought by name on the stage, lacerated with invectives of unrivalled bitterness; and, instead of stoning the daring poet, they bestowed their highest literary honour on this display of his ability. It may fairly be doubted, whether the British

nation, or any party in it, would bear so patiently a similar attack. At what premium would Mr. Mitchell's life be insured, were he to visit the county of Kerry, and display Mr. O'Connell on the stage as Cleon was displayed at Athens? Or, to take a closer parallel, what would have been the fate of the dramatist, in the early part of the French war, who represented John Bull as a stupid fool, dragged into a contest with which he had no earthly concern, and duped by a pilot, not "who weathered the storm," but who put to sea in order to avert the tempest? Assuredly he would have had a much better chance of the pillory than the laurel. The king-people, as Mr. Mitchell tauntingly calls the Athenians, endured to have their faults told them more patiently than any sovereign before or since.

The drama now published is a highly-seasoned attack on the legal administration of Athens. The absurdities of the law are fair game for satirists in every age and clime. Were Aristophanes to return on earth, he might find, in Lord Brougham's speech on the reform of the law, materials for some dozen of farces, that would cast the absurdities of 'The Wasps' completely into the shade. Look at the inimitable scene of the coroner's inquest in 'Tilney Hall;' recall to memory Steevens' report of 'Bullum versus Boatum,' and then say if the laws of England are not as open to ridicule as those of Athens?

The plot of 'The Wasps' is very simple: Philocleon, an old Athenian, is enamoured of the occupation and influence afforded him in the law courts, where the citizens, under the name of dicasts, filled at once the office of judges and jurymen. It has pleased Mr. Mitchell to describe these dicasts as "men mean in everything but a natural acuteness and good taste—without birth or education— not necessarily knowing more of law than the bean or pebble they held in their hands," for they voted by ballot. Proceed a little farther, and you find the Athenian citizens described as a highly intellectual people, and condemned for the inordinate time devoted to mental cultivation. Philocleon's son is a foe to his father's inclinations; he confines him to his house, places sentinels on the doors, and covers the fore-court with a net to prevent the dicast's evasion. The drama opens with a dialogue between Sosias and Xanthias, two of the slaves on guard.

Sos. Ho there! Why, Xanthias, what are you about? Xan. Sick of this weary watch, I take a nap. Sos. In faith, you'll catch a beating for your pains; now you the crafty beast we have to guard?

The slaves hold a long, and not very interesting conversation; in which, however, Mr. Mitchell discovers much profound wisdom, on the ill effects of democracy, and the bene-ficial results that would follow from restoring the supremacy of the aristocratic faction. This discussion is premature; the entire course of Athenian policy will more properly come before us, when 'The Knights' come under our review. Bdelycleon, the son of the dicast, gives notice that his father is trying to

escape, and the old man's head is seen emerging from the chimney. He declares that he is "smoke," but the excuse will not pass current, and he is driven back. He next appears as a bird on the top of the house, and calls for aid to his brother dicasts, twentyfour of whom, forming the chorus of the piece, enter disguised as wasps. The humour of the scene is not of the highest order: "it turns principally on the poverty of the dicasts, who were allowed three oboli" per day for attending in the courts, and were likely to want a dinner unless they had an opportunity of trying a cause. Did it ever occur to the learned editor, that no very long while ago, persons were accused of getting their names on the special jury panel, for the sake of the sum paid for their attendance? A long discussion takes place between Bdelycleon and the Chorus; the young man finally persuades them that they have been duped by the demagogues; the wasps sheath their stings. To console his father, Bdelycleon gets up a mock trial of a dog for stealing a Sicilian cheese. The proceedings of the Athenian criminal courts are ridiculed rather happily.

happily.

Bdel. (as president of the court.)

"Waits any member of the court without?

Let him advance forthwith: we bar admission

Soon as the pleadings have commenced."

Phil.

Produce me

The Defendant—(rubbing his hands)—gods! how I'll

trounce the rascal!

Bdel. "The cur of Cydathenus these declares

'Gainst Labes of Æxone: 'foresaid Labes
Against the peace and quiet of our state
Did then and there combine, singly and sole,
To swallow a Sicilian cheese. Penalty:

A collar of stout fig-wood."

Phil.

Bring it but home

A collar of stout fig-wood."

Phil.

Bring it but home

To him, and he shall die,—swinge me, a dog's death.

Bdel, Labes, so please this honourable court,

Is here before them.

O the villain—how like

Phil. O the villain—how like A thief he looks! nay, never show your teeth And grin at me;—tricks pass not here, believe me.

Bdel. But where's my plaintiff, he of Cydathenus?

Dog. Bow, wow.

Sos.

Another Labes this, equal

To any cur for barking, and for emptying

A porringer—shew me his peer for that!

Hdel. Silence within the court. (To Sos.) Be

And you (fo Xanth.) mount up and set us forth your charge.

Phil. And Pl meantime discuss this dish of lentils.

Xant. (as dog-plaintiff). Your honourable ears are

now possess'd Of this our bill and charge. Heinous and rank—

Of this our bill and charge. Heinous and rank— Phill. (editig). Proceed, the court are with you. Xant.

Which this vile cur against myself and—blue-jacket— Hath thus committed. For, my Lude, to hurry him

Hath thus committed. For, my Lu Into a nook, a hole, a corner, there

To gulp down, or (for crimes of novelty Deserve new names) there to desicilize, As I may say, in secresy and darkness, A cheese of mightiest size—

Phil. (guarding his nose). Guilty! guilty! His very breath is evidence against him. O what a gale came over me this moment!

The defence is even better :-

Bdel. (feelingly). Nay, nay,
Enforce not, sir, this countenance of stemness;
Look with an eye of pity on the wretched!
Shall I of merits speak? This Labes' palate
Scoras not the roughest food—fish-hone, or offal;—
Then he 's for ever shifting ground: yon cur
Hath but one biding-place—that's the house-door.
There he takes ground for ever, craving part
Of all that's brought within; deny it him,
And you'll soon know the setting of his teeth.

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Phit. (with great emotion). Angels and ministers

Prints (thin great charton). August and ministers of grace protect me! grow soft, And feel within the powers of persuasion.

Batel. (pathetically). O they are gracious signs! and the good work.

And give it furtherance!

The chorus becomes reconciled to the politics of Bdelycleon, and make peace with him. Their concluding odes are superior to any thing else in the drama, and display a manliness of spirit very characteristic of Aristo-phanes. We quote one specimen:—

Semi-Chorus. O the days that are gone by, O the days so blithe and bland,
When my foot was strong in dance, and the spear was in my hand;
Then my limbs and years were green—I could toil

in my band;
Inen my limbs and years were green—I could toil and yet to spare,
And the foeman to his cost knew what strength and mettle are;
O the days that are gone by!
Now upon this head are thrown
Whiter hairs than ever shone
On the bird who breasts and braves,
Silver-bosom'd, silver waves.
Yet beneath this head of grey
Latent fires and embers play;
And at urgent need I show
Youth on my determined brow,
Much, believe, should I repine,
Bart'ring these old limbs of mine
For a modern youngster's frame;
For the faces and the graces,
Braided locks and mincing paces,
Of the fopling who disgraces
Lawful love and manhood's name.
We have not thought it necessary to follow

We have not thought it necessary to follow Mr. Mitchell in all his wanderings from this drama, to attack the Athenian democracy. Supposing every line of the comedy to be true, what does it prove, but that legal abuses were possible in a democracy. Could these abuses be of very grave importance when they were remonstrated against only by a farce? Compare the tribunals of democratic Athens with those of aristocratic Venicetake the worst age of the former and the best of the latter-and the Athenian will have no reason to shun the comparison.

We part from Mr. Mitchell with sorrow: years have elapsed since his spirited translations first led us to the study of the " grandis senex:" his present edition of the plays, everyway creditable to him as a scholar and a man of taste, unfortunately display a bitterness of political feeling, which we fondly deemed could find no place in such a mind as his. He has here given us the worst play of Aristophanes, and, without detracting from the editor's merits, we trust it will continue that in which he has made the worst exhibition of his prejudices.

The Immaterial System of Man contemplated, in accord with the Beautiful and the Sublime, and in reference to a Plan for a General Education. By Elizabeth Hope. Ridgway.

THERE is a mixture of the abstract and the practical, in the promise of this title-page, that smacks at once of Plato and of Brougham. It is "a swelling prologue," and it were well, could we conscientiously add, to "a mighty theme." The work is written by a woman, one who, whatever may be her deficiencies, is evidently an enthusiast in good-with the love, if not with the mastery, of liberal opinions. She publishes too (if internal evidence may be trusted,) at her own expense—that is, at her certain loss. These are strong claims on the critic's forbearance; for though, in our ordinary estimates of humanity and of literature, we are apt to suspect a strong dash of vanity and of self-confidence, at the

bottom of the temperament which leads to the didactic in matters of religion and morality, these qualities are so amiably veiled by kindliness of intention in the volumes before us, that we have great reluctance in withholding from them an unqualified approval.

But teachers, such as Mrs. Elizabeth Hope are far from proving beneficial to society. They address themselves, whatever they may think to the contrary, to the ignorant and the feeble; and on them only will they prevail. Strong, sound, and well-trained minds, will at a glance perceive the endless absurdity of the reasoning, and regret the practical consequence. That which is really elevating and exalted in such works, becomes mean, paltry, and inconclusive by the manner in which it is set forth and accompanied. The vicinity of the sublime to the ridiculous is in this instance of dangerous consequence. On the feeble and the ignorant, on the contrary, their influence is considerable; but that influence is not exerted in strengthening or enlightening. It is confined almost exclusively in propagating the fanatical enthusiasm of the author, in removing the readers from the world of tangible evidence, to plunge them in an universe of vague, phantom-like ideas, and exaggerated sentiments, unsettling their few principles, and preparing them to admire only what is exaggerated and gigan-

The multiplicity of works such as the one before us is a necessary consequence of the vast increase of reading, accompanied by a defective education, tending directly to degrade the intellectual powers. The surface of literature is covered with a multiplicity of words. Sentences "ready cut and dry" upon all sciences and subjects, are liberally supplied to those who are tempted to turn authors. Whether these have any meaning, whether that meaning be true, or whether, being true or false, the person employing them, may be capable of embracing it, are quite different questions. Of moral truths, more especially, there are few that are so in all the extension of the terms; and by injudicious employment, they become more fallacious than mere falsehoods, which commonly lead directly to their own conviction. It is not difficult in the present state of literature, for persons really incapable of sound and conclusive reasoning, to string together volumes of vague but plausible matter; producing works which, while they pass muster, tend only to confuse the intellect of confiding readers, and to unfit them for the general reception of truth, when by accident it falls in their way.

We do not however wish it to be understood, that Mrs. Hope is absolutely to be placed in this class of authors. On the contrary, she has glimpses of truth, and partial perceptions of things, that are quite provoking. One pitches upon sentences and pages which indicate a near approach to a sound philosophy; but "heigh! presto, be--some vagueness of terms, some inconclusiveness of reasoning, some incapacity for following a proposition to its legitimate consequences, destroys the whole, and reduces the paragraph to a practical absurdity.

Mrs. Hope is, to the extent of her powers, philosopher of the modern school, in which a very small body of doctrine derived from experiment and observation, is obscured and overladen with idealism; and in which, under the mistaken notion of studying what passes

within their own mind, its professors have been occupied solely with abstract and general terms of the most subtle character, which they have adopted as representatives of real entities, They have invented a true polytheism by their personifications of "the mind," "the will," "the reason," "the heart," (meaning the unknown source of affections,) and we know not how many other local gods, to rule over the microcosm man, and to account for his sayings and doings: and, by the juggling with these terms, which are but counters, whose value is never twice the same, they have worked up a system, which is to drive experience out of credit, and to supersede whatever is merely rigorous deduction from fact. In religion, she is more than an enthusiast. Everything in her book is spiritualized; and the Bible is the Deus ex machina, called in upon every occasion, in season and out, to establish her conclusions. But perhaps, the great defect of her book is, that she has taken up a theme too vast for her mental powers; and it is perpetually escaping from her grasp. It is this that in our opinion, will make her a blind guide to the young for whom she writes, the more dangerous, because there is a real goodness of intention and an appearance of reason in what she advances. If the juvenile reader has feeling, he must have a tendency to respect his author, and therefore to take her doctrine unexamined; by which his judgment will be enchained, and his power of profiting by works of a sounder description considerably crippled.

We are, we repeat it, sorry to be obliged thus to speak of Mrs. Hope's work, and we hasten to offer her the consolation, in conclusion, that she will find numbers prepared to entertain a more favourable estimate of its value. The English nation is in its nonage as to moral philosophy: the very term is odious to the majority. The masculine "good old English" writers on the subject are neglected and forgotten; and nothing is read on the subject beyond what appears in religious tracts, and-fashionable novels.

The Loseley Manuscripts, illustrative of some of the more minute particulars of English History, Biography, and Manners, from the Reign of Henry VIII. to that of James I. Edited by A. J. Kempe, F.S.A. Murray.

This is a selection from ancient documents, preserved in the muniment room at Loseley House, Surrey, presenting pictures of revels and pageants, inventories of "dresses and properties," to be used therein, "documents relating to the palace of Nonesuch, its pyeces of old tapestrye," and its state beds of velvet and "Turquay sylke," of the giant dimensions of fourteen feet length by twelve wide; curious churchwardens' accounts too, with the characteristic entry "Item, too hundred and seventy-too lbs. of broken latten," (brass) the spoils doubtless of many a rich monument, "solde to candlesticke makers at xxs. a hundredthe," with many letters from distinguished individuals in the reigns of Elizabeth and James, as well as others from obscure persons, but valuable from the light which they often throw upon the peculiarities of the age.

The following letter addressed to the son of Sir William More, from Simon Tripe, a "learned physician," is characteristic of those days,

was so home bleson you w had a vou. abroad hawke the Qu Ma'tie should

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when not even a diet drink was to be taken, unless there was a favourable aspect of the planets. How delightful must it have been for a patient to be told, that no skill of the physician could possibly avail him "untill Wensday come sevenight at the nearest."

Mr. George More, I am hartely sory for the suspected mischance happened at Losley, but I hope there is more feare than hurt, and yet in these causes good to mistrust the worst. As for my comming to you upon Wensday next, verely my comming to you upon Wensday next, verely my promise being past to an old pacient of mine, a very good gentlewoman, one Mrs. Clerk, wen now lieth in great extremity, I cannot possibly be whyou till Thursday. On Fryday and Saterday, the signe wilbs in the heart, on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday in the stomacke, during wenty tyme it wilbs no good dealing with your ordinary phintends. sicke untill Wensday come sevenight at the nearest, and from that tyme forwards for 15 or 16 dayes passing good. In w'ch time yf it will please you to let me understand of your convenient op-portunity and season, I will not faill to come along presently w<sup>th</sup> your messenger. Howbeit, yf this turne be not supplied by some other in the meane space, I had rather it should be 2 or 3 days after Michelmas, because now I am utterly unfurnished of horses, and cannot hire any for money, but such jades as will not cary a man 10 miles out of y towne w'thout tyring; and I meane now at Way Hill Faire, w'ch shalbe at Michelmas, to store myself againe for my owne saddell at the least, And so, praying you to take my just excuse in good part, and to remembre my humble comendac'ons to your selfe and all the good company at Thorpe, I commit us to God. Winton, Sept. 18, 1581. Your worships assured lovinge frind,

Simon Trippe.
To the woorshipfull my very good frinde
Mr. George More at Thorpe, these be d'd.

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The two following letters from Mrs. Wolley, who was one of the ladies of Elizabeth's privy chamber, are worthy transcription; they show the difficulty of a courtier keeping his standing, and the gifts, and compliments, and professions of "dutiful service," which not merely the queen, but each of the leading personages at her court required. In the second letter, the reader will observe the extravagant compliment which Elizabeth pays to Sir William More—a corroborative proof, it seems to us, that the equally extravagant compliments paid by her courtiers to her, were not, as Hume fancies, incense of-fered to her vanity alone, but in great mea-sure the result of that exaggerated style of expression, the "Euphuism" of the day. The praise bestowed, in Cymbeline, on Imo-gen's "neat cookery" too will probably occur to the reader, when he finds a lady in immediate attendance on the "queen's majesty," preparing with her own hands a supper for the great Lord Burghley, when confined to his chamber by the gout.

Syr, The daye you went from the Courte at night, her Ma'tie dyd enquyre of me for you and was sorye, when I tould her that you were gon home to your owne howse, that you had so troublesome a jorney, we'h if her Ma'tie had knowne you would have taken that nyght, she would have had a lodging provyded for you, beinge lykewyse sorye that she had no longer tyme to entertayne yo'. Yesternight in the eveninge her Ma'tie went abroade a hawkyinge, and Sy Robert Cycill's hawke killed three partriches, we'h he presented the Queen wth, and myself being in place, her Ma'tie gave them me, wth expresse charge that I should send them to you this daye against dyner, desyrynge you to eatte them for her sake. Since, Sy Robi Cycill begged them of me, we'h I could not deny him of, I have sent this messenger of purpose to you, praynge you to take knowledge

of the receypte of the partryches, and to certify yo' of this her Ma'ties greate care of yo', to the end that yo'' maye, by yo' I're wrytten to me, take notice of this her highnes' good affec'on to yo'', weh I would have wrytten somewhat breef, that I maye shewe yt to her Ma'tie. She hath comaundedme to send for mysonne; notw'hstanding if yt shall please you to forgett yt, I meane to forgett also to send for him. In the mean tyme I praie yo'' to gyve charge that he may practise his Frenche, for feare her Ma'tie shall call to me for him agayne. She sayeth she will pose him in is learnynge. I pray yo' therefore to cause Mr. Pyke to see him take paynes between this and then. So praying you to comend me to my brother and the rest of the good compayne there, with remembrance of my dutye, I humblye take leave. At the Court, this xvith of September, 1595.

Yor loving and obedyent daughter, ELIZABETH WOLLEY.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge ffather, Sr Willm Moore, knight at Loseley.

Sr, Yesterdaie I sent Nicke to London to see how you did, thinking you had taken phisike. I am verie glad to heere you are so well after your long and wearie jerneye, I pray you shorten yt at your next going to London, and lye all night at Pirfford. Synce my commyng to the Corte I have had manie gratious wordes of her Matie, and manye tymes she bad me welcom with all her hart, evere since I have waited. Yesterdaye she wore the gowne you gave her, and toke therby occasion to speake of you, saying er long I should find a mother-in-lawe, weh was herself, but she was affrayd of the tow wydows that ar ther wth you, that they would be angrye wth her for yt, and that she would gyve thowsands poundes you were twenty yeeres younger, for that she hath but few suche servauntes as you ar, wth many mor gratious speeches both of your self and my brother, wth is too long to write, and thereffor will leave to tell you when we meete. My Lo. Admyrall came to me and bad me welcome wth all his harte, and tould me he had seene you, willing me to comaunde him in any ffriendshippe he can shewe unto me. thought good at this time to use no further speeches unto him. I went to my Lo. of Buck-hurst and gave him humble thanks for his kind usage of you, he did assure me he would be a most ffaythfull freind both unto yow and to myself, sayeing, if he could be assured of my friend-ship, he had rather have yt than any other lady that serves in the place, w<sup>ch</sup> I did assure him of. My brother is verie much bownde and beholding to my Lo. Chamberlen and my La. Warwicke, I will tell you wherfore when I see you next. Thus hetherto I have had a good beginning at Cort, and have no doute but to contynew yf frends and have no doute but to contynew yf frends be constant; if they flaile it salbe thorough no desarte of myne, for I will lyve very warilie amongst them. The Queenc, as she sayeth, will dine win my lady Edmonds on Tuesday nexte, and retorne again at night, wen I can hardlie believe; if she doe, I meane to wayte uppon her. My Lord Thresorer lyes heere very ill of the goute, and cannot stir hand nor foote, nor feede himself, the goute is so in his hands. I thinke he will not be hable to goe to London this weeke. My Lord Chamberleyn adviseth me to send hym a few partriches, web I knowe not where to get anye; yt might please yow to send me som, yf never so flewe; about me ther is not anye to be gotten. I minced one myself and sent him this last night, by the advise of my lord Chamberleyne, we'h he made his supper of. So humbly preying to commend me to my good brother and the rest of my ffreindes there, wth remembrance of my dewtye, I comytt us all to God's hollye protection. ffrom the Cort, this Sundaye morninge,

> Yor loving and obedient daughter, ELIZABETH WOLLEY,

To the right worshipful my very loving ffather, Sr William More, knight, at Loseley.

But the most interesting portions of his collection, in an historical point of view, are the letters addressed to Sir William More by different members of the Queen's council, respecting the measures to be taken at the period when the nation was threatened with the Spanish Armada, and those also addressed to his son Sir George More, by King James's council, and the King himself, when, as Lieutenant of the Tower, he had the custody of the Earl and Countess of Somerset previously to their trial for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury. Of this most disgraceful episode in a most disgraceful reign, Mr. Kempe gives a very correct epitome, and introduces four letters, autograph and confidential, from the King to Sir George More, which in the absence of all additional corroborative testimony, would, we think, abundantly prove that James had most urgent reasons for preventing the disclosures which Somerset fiercely threatened he would make. These letters, four in num-ber, were found carefully preserved in an envelope, on which was the subjoined note :-

"These 4 letters weare all of Kinge James his owne hand wryghtinge, sent to Sir George More, Liftennant of ye Tower, (beinge putt in to that place by his owne apoyntment, without ye privitie of any mann.) concerninge my Lorde of Sommersett, whoe beinge in the Tower, and heringe that he showld come to his arayngment begann to speake bigg wordes touchinge on ye Kinges reputation and honour. The Kinge therefore desired, as mutch as he cowld, to make him confes the poysoninge of Sir Thomas Overberry, and so not to come to his arrayngement, but to cast him selve on his mercy. But beinge a courtiour and beaten to these courses, woold not; ffully imagininge that the Kinge durst not or woold not bryng him to his tryall. The gentlema' ye Kinge sent in one of ye letters to my Lord wase Walter James, somtime my Lorde's secretaryc. But ye Kinge, althoughe he was the wisest to woorke his owne endes that ever wase before him, for all that cowld not woorke on Somersett. But that he ever stoode on his inocency, and wold never be brought to confest the had any hand with his wyfe in ye poysoninge of Overberye, knewe mot of it, nor consented unto itt."

The haughty bearing of Somerset, when, at length, after three months apparently most unnecessary delay, he was told he must prepare for his trial, and the "bigg wordes" which he uttered—words which Weldon declares to have been "I shall not go to my then the him bring meta any." trial, nor dare the king bring me to any," and the agony of fear which James suffered during the continuance of it, prove that the now discarded favourite was certainly in possession of some important secret. Weldon farther relates, that Sir George More, although it was midnight, upon hearing the threats of the prisoner, took boat and pro-ceeded to Greenwich, where, on his arrival, finding all the household retired to rest, he went to the back stairs, and awakened one of the grooms, assuring him that although the king was asleep he must have instant speech of him; and that the king, on hearing his account, exclaimed-" On my soul, More, I know not what to do. Thou art a wise man; help me in this great strait, and thou shalt find thou servest a thankful master." The general correctness of this statement seems confirmed by the following two letters, in which James, laying aside all pretensions to kingcraft, absolutely suppli-cates his lieutenant of the Tower, to use his influence with a prisoner about to be put on

his trial for murder, to prevent him from | charging the king as an accomplice! What man, however cowardly, unless he were also

guilty, would ever have so degraded himself?
"Goode Sir George,
"As the onlie confidence I had in your honestie made me, without the knowledge of any, putte you in that place of truste quhiche ye nou possesse, sa muste I nou use yourre truste and secreatie in a thing greatlie concerning my ho-noure and service. Ye knowe Somersette's daye noure and service. Ye knowe Somersette's daye of tryall is at hande, and ye knowe also quhat faire meanes I have usid to move him, by confessing the trewthe, to honoure God and me, and leave some place for my mercie to worke upon. I have now at last sent the bearare heerof, an honeste gentleman, and quho once followid him, with suche directions unto him, as, if thaire be a sponke of grace lefte in him, I hoape thaye shall worke a goode effecte. My onlie desyre is, that ye wolde make his convoye unto him in suche secreatie as none living may knowe of it, and that, after his speaking with him in private, he may be returned bakke againe as secreatlie. So, reposing myself upon your faithfull and secreate handling of this busienesse, I bidde you hartelie JAMES R.

"Endorsed in Sr George More's hand,
"9th of May, about one of the clock
in th' afternoone, 1616."

Goode Sir George,—"I am extreamlie sorie that your unfortunate prisoner turnis all the great caire I have of him, not onlie against himselfe, but against me also, as farre as he can. I cannot blame you, that ye cannot conjecture quhat this maye be, for God knowis it is only a trikke of his ydle braine, hoaping thairby to shifte his tryall; but is easie to be seene that he wolde threattin me with laying an aspersion upon me of being in some sorte accessorie to his cryme, I can doe no more (since God so abstractes his grace from him), then repete the substance of that letre, quhiche the Lorde Haye sent you yesternight, quhiche is this: if he wolde writte or send me any message concerning this poysoning it needis not be private; if it be of any other bussienesse, that quhiche I can now with honoure ressave privatlie, I maye doe it after his tryall, and serve the turne as well; for excepte ather his tryall or confession præcede, I cannot heare a private message from him, without laying an aspersion upon myselfe of being an accessorie to his cryme, and I praye you to urge him by reason, that I refuse him no favoure quhiche I can graunte him, without taking upon me the suspicion of being guiltie of that cryme quhairof he is accusid; and so fairwell.

Now, what could be this "other bussienesse" which, after the trial, might "serve the turne as well," except the promise of pardon, provided Somerset did not disclose that secret, whatever it might be, which James so dreaded? But Somerset persisted in his haughty carriage, and as his trial proceeded, threw out most significant threats; and then James wrote the following letter, the fourth, which affords a strong corroboration of that part of Weldon's statement, which affirms that Sir George More kept two servants at hand during Somerset's arraignment, with a view to smother his voice, and carry him away from the bar, in pretence that he was distracted, if he ventured to utter anything to impeach the king.

Goode Sir George, "For ansoure to your straunge newis, I ame first to tell you, that I expecte the Lorde Haye and Sir Robert Carr have bene with you before this tyme, quhiche if thaye have not yett bene, doe ye sende for thaime in haste that they maye first heare him, before ye saye any thing unto him, and quhen that is done, if he shall still re-

fuse to goe, ye must doe youre office, excepte he be ather apparantlie seike or distractid of his wittes, in any of quhiche cacis ye maye acquainte the Chancellaire with it, that he may adjorne the day till Mondaye nexte, betwene and quhiche tyme, if his sikenesse or madnesse be counterfitted, it will manifestlie appeare. In the meane time, I doute not but ye have acquainted the Chancellair with this strainge fitte of his, and if upon these occasions ye bring him a little laiter then the houre appointed, the Chancellaire maye in the meane tyme protracte the tyme the best he maye, quhom I praye you to acquainte like wayes with this my ansoure, as well as with the accident, if he have saide any thinge of moment to the Lorde Haye, I expecte to heare of it with all speede; if other wayes, lett me not be trubled with it till the tryall be past. Fairwell.

JAMES R."

Superscribed in another hand, To or trustie and weel belowed Sr George More, knight, or levetenant of or Towre of London."

In the whole of this there is certainly a great mystery; and from the characters of all those concerned in it, doubtless a "mystery of iniquity." Popular feeling, at the time, almost openly declared that it was the poisoning of Prince Henry, in which Sir Thomas Overbury was an agent. Various authentic documents, and especially the full and minute statement of the physicians in attendance, amply refute this opinion; and while we cannot doubt that James had most important state reasons for closing the mouths both of Overbury and Somerset, we are still completely in the dark as to what these reasons were. The valuable work of Professor Raumer has thrown much light on the character of James and shown him in colours darker than even his bitterest opponents ventured to delineate him. It is not improbable that farther researches among the same valuable stores, may bring this closely concealed secret also to the day.

The Book of the Story-Tellers.—[Le Livre des Conteurs.] Vol. VI. London: Dulau.

"GREAT cry and little wool," is the order of the day with the class of writers engaged in the very oriental business of amusing the unamusable. Formerly, the problem of fictitious narrative was to abstract from a "story" of the simplest construction, the greatest possible amount of passion and of interest. The very reverse is now apparently the rule in France; for authors write as if their object were to obtain from the most extravagant and horrible premises, the most lame and impotent conclusion. The rage of the day is for short tales; but even our own English publishers, who stipulate for the orthodox three volumes, would rather they were made up of several pieces than of one. This mode of doing business flatters the idleness, or favours the exhaustion (as the case may be) of the writer. Te narrow circle in which he is compelled to turn, admitting of no detail, his knowledge of the heart, his acquaintance with humanity, are but little called upon; a bold sketch, or a melo-dramatic situation at most is expected from him, and whim and caprice will serve him better with his readers than either feeling or philo-

Still, there is no species of writing that requires greater genius for its due execution than the short tale. In proportion to its brevity, it should be quintessential; what it

wants in weight, it should supply in polish, Critical powers of great variety are required to give the necessary harmony and proportions to the several parts of the miniature structure; and, above all, there should be a felicity of style in the execution, such as none but the very elect have a chance of possess-

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The French, of all nations, have shown the greatest aptitude to this species of composition; and yet the number of their chefsd'œuvre might be counted on the fingers. Cagotte, Boufflers, and Voltaire, were each masters in their several ways; but Marmontel, who possessed simplicity, was utterly deficient in nature; and his 'Moral Tales,' are as purely conventional in their life, as they were in their morality. They are fit only to dramatize for the Opera Comique.

,The consequence to be drawn from these preliminaries is, that the number of such productions in the world is not great, and that a compressed novel will not make a good tale; of which verities the contents of the volume before us will afford some illustration. It consists of four tales, 'Melmoth Reconciled,' by De Balzac; 'The Day without a Morrow,' by Sandeau; 'The Wife of a Russian,' by Soulié, and Wilhelmina, by Foucher.

Of these, the second comes the nearest to the genuine French conte of the old school, and is written with the most ability. It is a love story in a single scene, the history of a passion that began and ended in one evening's ride; and is consequently composed of a number of minute pencil touches, of considerable delicacy and charm. It is an anecdote of early youth, told by a grandmother; and the circumstance gives occasion to a just remark on romance writing, which we extract for the benefit of the craft :-

You see, my friend, that in the exaltation of my sentiments, I approached pretty nearly to the types, which some thirty years later were to form the staple of our fashionable romances, and accordingly I cannot but like those horrible books, for the distant echo they bring with them of my youthful days. Only I wish that in these works, the productions of some suffering heart or diseased imagination, whose object is to paint life and represent its joys, its griefs, and its trials, the authors would sometimes be less true to its poetry than to its reality, and not always end in a paroxysm of passion. I should like occasionally to see those heroes and heroines, so pale, so fair, so brown, so beautiful, so fiery, and so ardent in the first chapters, taking, in the last pages, a good pinch of snuff in the chimney corner, and passing a judicious review of the extravancies of their youth, while their bed is warming, and their cotton night-cap airing at the fire. Sucha dénouement ably conducted, would very happily complete the sense of many of our modern novels, and would abound in moralities of all sorts.

This species of retrospect, if we could but get the young to believe it, would afford the best antidote to the illusions of passion. Of all the mysteries to man, the greatest is himself, when viewed through the vista of years. Nay, were it possible for two ardent, devoted lovers, (ready to go per cædes et ignem, to the gratification of their dream), to behold themselves, such as they will appear to themselves at the end of a twelvemonth, when life shall have reassumed its ordinary train, and nursery-maids and housemaids shall have taken their place with the loves and the graces, we question whether Malthus would ever have received his mission.

Not, and t gone bette if eve speak

But to return to our story, its greatest defect is, that it has a tragic termination; the 'morrow' being interrupted by the death of the hero. This is the more to be lamented, as a better catastrophe is prepared by the author, in the following few sentences of a conver-sation between the lady love and her husband:-

"Do you expect any one," he asked me with

indifference.
"Yes," I said boldly, "I expect Monsieur

Roger." "What, little Roger!" said my husband, with

"Monsieur Roger," I said my husband, with an air of astonishment. "Monsieur Roger," I said, with an air of dig-nity. "Do you know him?" "Certainly."

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"Then I cannot but be surprised. You seem to have set your heart on getting all the fools and bores of the town to your house; and have never thought, by way of compensation, of giving me sometimes the company of that young

"That is very well," said my husband, with the most perfect calmness; "your fools and bores have generally some speciality to recommend them; but this little Roger is so insignificant a creature, that it never entered into my head he could have afforded you even a laugh at his person."

Nothing could have been more pleasant, nothing more natural, than that a lady who, by the exaltation of a few hours' moonlight silence in the fields, and the romance of a poetic situation, had been seized with such a sudden paroxysm of passionate love for the little Roger, should have recovered her senses in daylight and drawing-rooms, and have discovered that her hero (which was very probably the truth) was "a boy" without "force or good quality"—(it is certain he could not sit his horse). Such extravagancies of the imagination are not rare in life; for if " nothing is, but thinking makes it so, we know of few things that have less of objective reality, than the creature of a good sound female passion.

Of the other stories, 'Melmoth Reconciled' is merely an illustration of the proposition, "that if poor Maturin had brought his Melmoth to Paris, he would have found no difficulty in providing a substitute to go to the devil in his place, for the considera-tion of a little money." 'Wilhelmina' is the filling out of a horrible tale, of the despotism of the Great Frederic of Prussia's father; and 'The Wife of a Russian' a caricature of Russian life and politics, which are sufficiently odious, without exaggeration. In one word, these stories belong to the literature of the day, as it exists in France; and enough is said to explain their merits and their de-

#### THE ANNUALS FOR 1836.

The Forget-Me-Not .- As the Editor pertinently says in his preface, "It is scarcely to be supposed that, after performing the duty of ushering this work before the public for so many years, he should have anything new to offer on the subject;" and we, as critics, may echo his words—the 'Forget-Me-Not,' as concerns the tone of its contents, and the style of its illustrations, having undergone little or no change since we "came into office." Perhaps the illustrations are better this year than usual; they have rarely,

'Actress at the Duke's;' a portrait of a very young lady in masquerade, beautifully en-graved by Rolls. The other subjects have been supplied by well-known hands-Prout, the Miss Sharpes, and others. We must, however, particularize Hancock's 'Shepherdess,'—a country girl, with a small flock and a faithful dog, crouched in a delicious deliciones of the country girl, with a small flock and a faithful dog, crouched in a delicious shady glade; there is a repose and nature in this simple design, which have made us turn to it more than once. Nor can we pass, without mention, Bone's more Arcadian 'Dance of the Peasants,' faint illustration though it be, (but where is the artist who could paint up to the poet?) of that loveliest of all pastoral scenes—the one in the 'Winter's Tale,' where Perdita distri-butes her flowers and her sweeter "grace and remembrance" to her disguised guests at the shearing feast. Here she is seen sitting by the side of Florizel, while Polixenes and Camillo are looking on.

Pol. This is the prettiest low-born lass that ever Ran on the green-sward. Nothing she does or seems, But smacks of something greater than herself, Too noble for this place. Cam. He tells her something That makes her blood look out.

But our remembrance of the most touching poetry ever penned, is leading us away from the book in hand, and from its contents, which are pleasant and varied as usual. We begin with one of those brilliant tales which the 'Forget-Mc-Not' has always had to itself; then come some sweet lines by Montgomery of Sheffield, and Delta; after them an American sketch by Mr. Stone, and a legend of the olden time by Miss Lawrance. Besides these, we have verse by Miss Landon, ('The Confession' is one of her more carefully written and pleasing pieces,) a dramatic sketch by Mr. Serle, and a tale of the theatre in the racy old days of Nokes and Betterton, by Mr. Jerrold; Mr. T. K. Hervey's verses have appeared elsewhere, and Mr. Blanchard's are inferior to others from his pen that we have seen: there are also contributions from Mrs. Lee, Mary Howitt, the Ettrick Shepherd, the Modern Pythagorean, Dr. Bowring, and other well-known writers; but we shall extract, in preference to any of these, a fragment from a paper by Mrs. Erskine Norton, called 'The Chinese Visitation.' It is a description of a visit paid in the year 1812 by the Viceroy of the district lying south of Pekin to one of the Company's ships lying at Whampoa. After many rumours and pre-parations, "the great, the important day" arrived.

"The chief officer of the Warley (says Mrs. Norton) stood upon his deck surrounded by the officers, several supercargoes and some of the first Chinese merchants of Canton, all in full dress: the band was at its station, and the collation prepared. At length the distant sound of the gong gave notice of the approach of the Viceroy: every ship sent off a boat to meet him, that of the Warley, under the command of her second officer, of course took the lead. They attained the bend of the river which concealed the Viceroy's boats from view, and turning it, were soon in contact with them. The first boat of the procession was that of the executioner, in which was erected a gallows, surrounded by sol-diers armed with swords and whips; then came that of the Viceroy, attended numerously by others containing several mandarins, his household and troops, together with complete depôts of better this year than usual; they have rarely, if ever, numbered among them anything so peaking and piquant as Mr. E. Landseer's order of Chinese boats generally; but those in

which persons of distinction travel are luxuriously fitted up. The Warley's boat, followed by the rest, was soon alongside that of the Viceroy: all the officers were received on board with much politeness; the doors were thrown open, and the officers, forming a line, with their companion of the Warley at their head, prepared to enter. He of the Warley, although young, was rather short and fat: in the anxiety of the moment to support with dignity and propriety the leading part allotted to him on this occasion, and for that purpose holding up his head in a becoming manner, he did not perceive a small ledge at the entrance of the cabin, placed along to support the doors—it tripped him up, and he came with a heavy, scrambling fall upon his face before the Viceroy. An irrepressible titter ran through the line, in spite of the almost painful efforts of each individual to restrain it: the disconcerted leader, however, found his feet, brushed his knees with his sleeve, and then, timidly looking up, met the grave and placid eyes of the old Viceroy, almost buried as he was among his silken cushions. What made the blunder more diverting was, that it was easy to perceive that the Viceroy and his mandarins were impressed with the idea that the Englishman had performed the ko-tou, although in rather an awkward and inexperienced manner.

"The Warley had of course her side ladder (a perfect staircase in point of convenience and safety,) ready: but the regal boat was no sooner alongside, than up ran several attendants with a ladder of their own, which they fixed and covered very expeditiously with carpeting. the meantime, the chief officer descended in the boat, and received the Viceroy at the door of his cabin: after having made a very profound obeisance, he took him by the hand and helped him up the ladder. On his arrival on deck, all the Englishmen bowed respectfully: but the Chinese merchants, who had formed themselves into a line from the gang-way to a sort of chair of state, which had been placed in the centre of the quarter-deck, turned themselves round in silence, presenting a line of backs, decorated with plaited tails reposing on their rich robes of cloth and silk. One of them ventured to move his head round a little, and said, in an anxious undertone in English—"Leave go his hand, Mr. N—," but Mr. N— declined the hint, and having seated the Viceroy in his chair, bowed again, and took his station by his side.

"The dress of all the Chinese present was not only splendid, but, what we less expect to learn, was remarkably becoming. It consisted of the finest broad-cloth of the darker colours, chiefly crimson and puce, confined round the waist by a belt embroidered in gold or silver, with a clasp of precious stones: a large square of silk was laid on the breast and back, also richly embroidered with various devices, of which the crane was the most prevailing. The caps of the mandarins were peculiarly shaped, the higher part being com-posed of a profusion of thick silk threads, gathered and fastened at the top with a brilliant gem, differing in size and value according to the rank of the wearer. The military men wore in addition, one or two peacock's feathers drooping backwards; boots turned up, and square-toed, of black satin, very handsomely embroidered, com-pleted the dress. The prevailing colour of the Viceroy's was yellow. Most of the Chinese pre-sent were tall and well-formed: the Viceroy himself was rather low in stature, and advanced

in years.
"As soon as the Viceroy was seated, a pipe was presented to him by one of his attendants, while another filled it with toonco, which carefully renewed after every single whiff. For a few minutes a perfect silence prevailed. N.— then gave the signal to the band, which struck up with a roll of the long drum. The old man started, and taking the pipe from his

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mouth, inquired hurriedly what that was. He was told it was music by an English band. He had the good-breeding to listen with pleasure to our national air; but he whispered something to his interpreter, who, stepping round to the chief officer, told him that the Viceroy liked this music very much, but begged there might be no guns fired off while he was on board. \* \* \*

"While the trays were preparing below, the Viceroy amused himself by conversing with a few of the backs and long plaited tails, that still kept the same immoveable line, in which they had at first arranged themselves; he spoke to them by name, and seemed to be as familiar with them, as we are with the faces of our acquaintances; and had they changed places and turned round, he would probably have been at a loss to know immediately and exactly, which were the faces that belonged to such or such among his friends the backs."

This solemnity was succeeded by a sort of banquet; the great man then made the circuit of the ship; after which he departed. The tails then turned round, and their owners began to talk and frolic among the English, congratulating the captain and themselves on having enjoyed so much of the sunshine

of his favour.

"Their glee was by no means moderated by the arrival of a large boat with presents from the Viceroy; presents indeed, truly oriental and imperial! twelve fine fat bullocks, several jars of wine, (a light acid wine, resembling claret, but inferior to it,) tube of preserves, a suit of clothes for each of the ship's company, and two suits, with a present of money for each of the band. A small, neat parcel, was handed to Mr. N.—; it contained a silk purse of beautiful workmanship, and in it were two little gold pills; he was assured that this was a rare and highly complimentary present, and that the pills possessed some extraordinary virtues. Thus ended this Chinese visitation."

We must close our notice for this week with a passing mention of 'The Pearl,' an American Juvenile Annual. We have often said, that our friends on the other side of the water, are particularly fortunate in their labours for the profit and pleasure of the young; and this volume might be cited as a justification of our opinion: nay, older and wiser readers than those for whose use it is expressly designed, might consult its pages with advantage, and study 'The Young Teacher.'

Goethe's Correspondence with a Young Lady.
[Third Notice.]

It was not our intention to return to these volumes; but the vivid pictures they contain have, it appears, awakened considerable interest, and we are therefore induced to change our resolution, so far as to translate the following strange story. A few words of introduction will be sufficient.

The lady whose fate it records was the earliest friend of Bettine Brentano; and from her loss, it will be seen, arose the intimacy of the latter with the mother of Goethe. Her family name is not given: that she was of patrician descent is proved by our finding her, at the period of the tale, residing as a canoness, or stifts-dame, in a lay + chapter at

Frankfort. Whether she had sought this refuge in consequence of disappointed love, or was driven to despair by some obstacle to the course of a returned attachment, does not exactly appear; it is sufficient for the reader to know that a sorrow of this nature preyed on her heart, and urged her to the dismal resolution, on the fulfilment of which depends the interest of the narrative. In the respective characters of the two friends, in the circumstances of their intimacy, and of their separation, we are presented with a picture which, although drawn from life, has all the colouring of fiction. The story was related by Bettine in a series of letters to Madame von Goethe.

#### The Story of Gunderode.

She was such a timid thing-a young canoness, that was wont to tremble when she had to say grace aloud: she would often say, that she felt afraid when her turn came; and hardly dared to utter the Benedicite aloud before the other canonesses;—our intimacy was delightful: it was to me the first epoch of self-consciousness. She had first visited me at Offenbach-she took me by the hand, and begged that I would call upon her in the city; after this we were together every day; with her I first learned to read books with understanding-she would fain have taught me history, but soon perceived that I was too much occupied with the present to allow the past to detain me long. How gladly I used to visit her! I could not miss her society for a day; every afternoon I went to her; when I arrived at the chapter-house gate, I would peep through the keyhole, at her door, until they let me in; her little dwelling was on the ground-floor, looking out on the garden; a silver poplar grew be-fore the window; on this tree I used to climb while reading aloud, and at every chapter mounted one bough higher, and read it her from on high; she stood at the window and listened and spoke with me as I sat above her, now and then she would say, "Bettine, do not fall!" Now, for the first time, do I learn how happy I was in those days; for everything, however trifling, is impressed on my mind as the memory of an enjoyment. In all her features she was as soft and delicate as a blondine. She had brown hair, but blue eyes, shaded by long eyelashes; when she laughed it was not loud, but rather a soft, half-suppressed cooing, the distinct utterance of joy and cheerfulness; she did not walk, she waved to and fro, if you can understand what I mean by this expression; her dress was a robe, that enveloped her in caressing folds; this was owing to the gentleness with which she moved. She was tall-the outline of her person was too flowing to be described by the word slender; she was shy, and yet friendly, and far too unpresuming to make herself prominent in society. On one occasion, when she dined at the Prince Primate's, with all the other canonesses, she wore the black dress of the chapter, with a long train, and a white collar, with the cross of the order; every one observed that she looked, amidst the other ladies, like a phantom-as if she were a spirit just about to vanish into air. She read her poems to me, and was as much pleased with my approbation as though I had been a whole public; I was full of vivid eagerness to hear them, not that I had seized on the meaning of what I heard; it was, on the contrary, an unknown element to me\_and the smooth verses affected me like the melody of a strange language, which is grateful to the ear, although we cannot translate it. We read Werther together, and often conversed on suicide; she would say-" To learn many things,

then die early!—I would not survive the loss of youth." We read of the Jupiter Olympius of Phidias, of which the Greeks said, that mortal had been cheated of the noblest thing on earth, who left it without having seen this image. Said Gunderode, "We must see it; we will not belong to those unfortunates, who thus have departed from the earth." We made the plan of a journey—invented our course and adventures, all committed to writing—our fancy was so active, that we could hardly have fared better in reality; we frequently read in the fictitious travelling journal, and delighted ourselves with the sweetest adventures, which were described as having befallen us—and the invention itself became at the same time a remembrance.

to embrace many things with the intellect, and

Here the narrator proceeds to describe the manner in which she was awakened to thought and reflection, by the discourse and letters of Gunderode, which, striking as originality dashed with wildness renders them, we must pass by, in order to proceed with the incidents of the tale. The effect of this instruction on a mind uncommonly sensitive and ardent, and expanded, as it were, in a moment, was dangerous to the neophyte.

I wrote to Gunderode, I know not what;—she came at once to Offenbach, looked at me anxiously, made perplexing inquiries as to my health. \* She said I should not remain so much alone, and took me with her to the city—ere a few days were over a fever attacked me: I lay down in bed and slept; at length I awoke, it was the fourteenth day since I first fell asleep: when I opened my eyes, I saw her slim figure moving to and fro wringing her hands; "But why do you weep, Gunderode?" I said. "God be for ever praised!" she cried, and came to the bedside, "are you awakened at last?" \* • Erom this time forth, she would not let me read any more philosophy, or write any more essays; she was firmly persuaded that to these my illness was owing.

Here I broke off, and have not written for many days, it rose before me with such weight and earnestness—the anguish would not yield to thought; I am a child still—I cannot master the immeasurable. Meanwhile, they have been welcoming Autumn here; the vine-dressers, crowned with leaves, have brought the grapes down from the hills amidst joyous carols, and the hautboys went before, and all danced and sang.

\* I shall be alone with my own heart; even as to-day I stood alone by the river-side amidst the gloomy willows, where the shiver of death is still hovering over the spot, where the grass has ceased to grow; there did she wound her sweet body—in the very place where she had learned the heart may be most certainly reached. O Lesu Maria!

She told me little of her other concerns; I know not in what relation she was placed except with me: she had, indeed, spoken to me Daub of Heidelburg, and of Kreutzer also; but of neither did I know whether he were dearer to her than the other. Once I had heard of it from others, but did not believe it. One day she met me with a joyful air, saying-" terday I conversed with a surgeon, who told me that it is very easy to kill oneself;"\_she hastily opened her dress, and showed me, beneath her beautiful bosom, the spot: her eyes sparkled with joy. I stared at her; for the first time I felt apprehension and awe. "Well," I asked, "and what will then become of me, when you are dead?" "O," she said, "by that time you will no longer care for me; we shall not remain so intimate until then, I will quarrel with you beforehand." I turned towards the window to hide my tears, and my heart throbbing with anger-she had gone to the other window, and was silent. I glanced aside at her; her

convent without its miserable restraints. The inmates assemble in the choir and (at pleasure) in the refectory, and perform occasional service; but are not interdicted from society, or bound to observe continual residence.

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<sup>+</sup>These institutions, many of which still exist in Germany, although strictly monastic in their origin, having by degrees become secularized, admit relatives or friends of the founder's family, or of the present patrons, unfettered by any obligation save that of cell-bacy. They are chiefly occupied by ladies of good family, but narrow fortunes, to whom they afford a refige equally convenient and honourable. To those who desire seclusion they extend the privileges of a

eye was raised to heaven, but its ray was broken, as though all its fire had gathered itself within. After I had observed her for awhile, all self-control forsook me, and I broke into loud crying. I fell on her neck, and forced her to a seat, and placed myself on her knee, and wept many tears, and kissed her, for the first time, on her lips, and tore open her dress, and kissed her on the spot she had learned to strike at the heart; and I implored, with tears of anguish, that she would have pity on me, and again flung my arms around her neck, and kissed her hands: they were cold and tremulous, and her lips moved convulsively, and she was quite cold, and stiff, and dead-pale; and could not raise her voice. She whispered, "Bettine, do not break my heart !" Oh! I strove to command myself, d not give her pain ; I laughed, and wept, and sobbed aloud; she seemed to grow more fearful every moment, and lay down on the sofa. Then I tried to jest, and strove to convince her that I regarded all as a jest-we spoke of her will, she bequeathed something to each; and to me a little Apollo under a glass bell, which she had decorated with a crown of bays... I wrote everything down. On my way home, I reproached myself for my emotion, and persuaded myself that it was all mere sport.

Once when I visited her, she showed me a poinard with a silver hilt, which she had purchased at the fair; she was delighted with the beauty and sharpness of the steel. I took the dagger, and tried its edge on my finger, the blood flowed at once, and she shuddered. I said, "O! Gunderode, you are so timid, and cannot bear the sight of blood, and yet constantly cherish an idea which implies the utmost resolution: I am certain, indeed, that I should be the bolder of the two in any risk, although I could never kill myself; but I have courage to defend myself or you from peril; and now that I press on you with the dagger, do you see how you are terrified?" She retreated in alarm; my old anger was again roused; under the mask of the maddest wilfulness, I kept pursuing her more and more earnestly; she ran into her bed-room, behind a leathern chair, for refuge. I plunged the weapon into it, and tore it in pieces; the hair flew about the room, and she stood behind the chair, praying that I would not nurr ner.
"Rather than suffer you to kill yourself, I will
"Rather than suffer you to kill yourself, I will
"Your do it." "My poor chair!" cried she. "You chair, forsooth! it shall make the dagger blunt." I gave it stab on stab without mercy, until the whole room became a cloud of dust, and then flung the dagger away, so far that it flew ringing under the sofa. I took her by the hand, and led her into the garden. In the vine bower, I tore off the young grapes, and threw them at her feet, and trod upon them, and said—"Even so do you abuse our friendship." • • I looked at her, she appeared ashamed, and bowed her head, and glanced aside, and grew pale; we were both silent for a long while. "Gunderode," I said, "if you are in earnest give me a sign." She

During an excursion she made to the Rheingau, she wrote to me twice a few lines: on one occasion..." It is quite mournful to be alone by the Rhine, but when one has company the more awful spots are just the more pleasurable; but I like to greet the wide-spread purple heaven of evening alone: at these times I keep inventing a fairy tale as I go along, which I will read to you. Every evening I am curious to know how it will proceed; often it becomes quite gloomy, and then springs to the surface again." When she returned, and I wanted to read the tale, she said, "It became so mournful that I cannot read it; I cannot bear to hear any more or to write on, it makes me ill;" and she took, indeed, to her bed, and lay there many days. The dagger lay beside her, but I thought of it no longer; the night lamp used to stand near it. I entered. "Bettine, three

weeks since I lost a sister; she was younger than I; you never saw her; she died of a decline.' "Why do you tell me this for the first time to-day?" I inquired. "How could it interest you, then? you never knew her; things like this I must endure alone," she replied, with tearless eyes. • • She continued: "Three nights ago this sister appeared to me; she entered slowly, clad in white, and remained standing by the table; she turned her head towards me, and inclined it, and looked at me. At first I was afraid, but soon became quite calm; I sat up in bed, in order to convince myself that I was not asleep. I gazed at her, and it seemed as though she nodded assent to something; and she took that dagger in her right hand, and raised it towards heaven, as if to show it to me, and then laid it down again, quite softly, and without noise. Then she took the lamp, and lifted it up also, and showed it to me; and, nodding softly, as though to give me a sign that I understood her, she carried the lamp to her lips and blew it out. Only think," she said, with a shud-"blew it out, and, in the darkness, my eye still felt her presence; then a great anguish fell upon me, which must be worse than the strife with death-yes, for I would rather have died, than bear this misery longer."

I had come to take leave of her, as I was

I had come to take leave of her, as I was about to set off for Marburg with Savigny; but now I wished to remain with her. "Go, by all means, she said, "because the day after to-morrow I am also going to the Rheingau," and so I went away. "Bettine," she called out to me as I was at the door, "remember this story—it is surely a remarkable one!" These were her last wards.

The narrator proceeds to describe the period of her stay at Marburg, and the sportive correspondence which passed between her and Gunderode during a considerable part of her absence. At length her letters were unanswered; and her entreaties for some reply or explanation of this silence, were unavailing. On Bettine's return to Frankfort, she found her friend had already arrived there.

I ran to the Priory, opened the door, and see there she stood, looking at me! as it seemed, quite coldly. "Gunderode," I cried, "may I come in?" She said nothing, and turned away. "Gunderode! say but one word, and I am in your arms." "No," she said, "come no nearer; turn back, we must separate." "What does that "Thus much-we have been deceived in each other, and are no longer united." O! I turned away\_the first despair\_the first cruel blow is so terrible to a young heart! • I ran home to Meline, and begged she would go with me to Gunderode, to learn what she complained of, to induce her to grant me a moment's interview. I thought, if I can but once hold her with my eye, I will compel her to yield. I ran along the streets, and stood at the gate, letting Meline go in to her alone. I waited, trembled, and wrung my hands, in the little narrow passage that had so often led me to her. Meline came out with red eyes, and led me away in silence. For a moment grief had overcome me, but I recovered myself directly. Now, methought, if fate will not be courteous, we will even play at ball with her. I grew gay, even merry; it was over-excitement; in sleep I wept all night long. On the second day, I went past her residence, and then saw the dwelling of Goethe's mother, whom I did not intimately know, and had never visited; I went in. "Frau Rath," t said I, "I wish to make your acquaintance; I have lost a friend in the canoness Gunderode, and you must replace her loss." "We will try to do so," said she,

and thus I visited her daily, and seated myself on the stool beside her, and made her tell me all about herson, all which I transcribed and sent to Gunderode. When she departed for the Rheingau, she sent me the papers back; the servant that brought them said, the canoness's heart had beaten violently as she gave her the papers—and that to her inquiry, what message was to be given, she answered, "Nothing."

A fortnight passed over, and then Fritz Schlosser came; he asked me for a line to Gunderode, as he was going to the Rheingau, and was desirous of making her acquaintance. I said we had quarrelled, but begged that he would name me to her, and observe closely the impression it made. "When do you go?" I said, "to-morrow?" "No, in a week." "O, do go to-morrow, or you will no longer find her\_it is so gloomy by the Rhine," I said jestingly, "she may do herself some mischief there." Schlosser looked anxiously at me. "Yes, yes," I said, with petulance, "she will plunge into the river, or stab herself in sheer caprice." "Do not talk wildly," said Schlosser; and now I began to do so in good earnest: "Take heed, Schlosser, you will find her no more, if you keep lingering as you are wont to do; and I tell you, go to-day rather than to-morrow, and rescue her from her unseasonably dark mood;"—and, in jest, I described how she would kill herself in a crimson gown, with her corset unlaced, and a wound close beneath her bosom. This they called my headlong levity; it was, however, an unconscious exaltation, during which I described the truth with perfect accuracy. On the following day, Franz (Bettine's brother) came, and said, "My girl, we will go to the Rheingau, where you may visit Gunderode," "When?" I asked. "To-morrow." "Oh!" I packed up with precipitation, and could hardly wait till we should set off; but several days passed, and the journey was still deferred: at last all my pleasure in the journey was changed into deep affliction, and I had rather have remained behind. When we came to Geisenheim, where we stayed all night, the maid, while laying the cloth, said, "Yesterday, a young beautiful lady, who had been living here for six weeks, destroyed herself near Winckel; she walked for a long while by the Rhine, then ran home and fetched a handkerchief; in the evening she was sought for in vain; next morning they found her on the bank among the willows. She had filled the handkerchief with stones, and bound it round her neck, wishing probably to sink in the Rhine, but as she stabbed herself she fell backwards, and thus a peasant found her lying by the Rhine. \* \* At first I had not heard her, but at the close I listened with the rest, and cried out, "That is my Gunderode!" They tried to persuade me I was mistaken, and said it must surely be some other, as there were so many from Frankfort in the Rheingau. I allowed myself to believe so, and thought such prophecies are commonly just the reverse of the truth. At night, I dreamed she came towards me in a boat decked with garlands, in order to be reconciled with me; I sprang out of bed, and into my brother's room, crying, "It is all false, I have just dreamed so vividly!" "Oh!" said my brother, "do not build on dreams." Again I dreamed I was going rapidly in a boat across the Rhine, to seek her; at once the water became turbid and weedy, and the air grew dark, and very cold. I landed on a swampy shore; there was a house with streaming walls, from which she came floating forth, and looked at me anxiously, signifying that she could not speak with me. I ran again to the room of my brother and sister, and cried "No! it is certainly true, for I have dreamed that I saw her, and asked her, Gunderode, why hast thou done this to me? and she was silent, and bowed her head, and was sad, that she could not answer." in bed, I reflected on everything, and bethought

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<sup>+</sup> We need hardly here advert to the custom prevalent in Germany of addressing a lady by the title of her husband. Thus the wife of a counsellor (Rath) is Frau Rath, or Rathin.

me that formerly she had said, she would break with me before she executed her purpose. our separation was explained; also, that she would give me a sign when her determination was ripe,—this, then, was the story of her de-ceased sister, which she told me half a year before; even then her resolve was taken! The following morning early, we went on up the Rhine. Franz had ordered the boat to be kept on the opposite side, to avoid coming too near the place, but there stood Fritz Schlosser on the bank, and the peasant who had found her; and the boatman unconsciously steered towards them, and thus was I forced to hear dismal fragments of the story, of the scarlet dress that was unlaced, and the handkerchief filled with stones around her neck, and the gaping wound ;-but I did not weep; I was silent.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting of the British Association.'—This handsome quarto has been compiled and published by Mr. Hardy, of Dublin. "The difficulty and labour," he observes in the preface, " of giving anything like a correct report, when there were seven separate sections to attend, can be only estimated by those who have been engaged in such an undertaking. apology is kindly put forward for those who did attempt to give such reports. We may further say, that, so far as we know, the Athenæum is the only journal to which it can apply. Mr. Hardy's difficulties and labours have been in a great degree confined to selecting and collating. To our reports Mr. Hardy acknowledges specific obligations in his preface, and in the progress of the work he further observes, "We feel it but justice now to add, that we have adopted other portions of the report from the Athenæum, considering them superior to the abstracts which we obtained from other quarters." Thus much in justice to ourselves. We have now great pleasure in stating, that Mr. Hardy has judiciously availed himself of time and circumstances, to make some valuable additions to the published reports, and that we consider his volume, illustrated as it is with maps, plans, and drawings, as the best account that has been or is likely to be published.

'Discourse upon Dante. [Ragionamento di Domenico de Crollis.]'-Another of the innumerable Italian commentators and expounders of Dante. We observe, that whilst Rosetti ex-plains the celebrated line, over which so many

critics have beat their brains,

Pape Satan, Pape Satan, aleppe, into a straightforward declaration, that his Holiness of Rome and Satan, Prince of this world, are one and the same person, by reading it thus

Pap' é Satan, Pap' é Satan, aleppe, Pope is Satan, Pope is Satan the prince,

and taking aleppe as an Italianized form of the Hebrew word Aleph, (prince,)—Crollis turns it into an olio of Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and French: as thus, Pape is the Greek and Latin interjection Papæ; Satan, in Hebrew, means an enemy; and aleppe is an Italianization of à l'épée! which, it seems in Dante's time, the French used synonymously with aux armes! Whence it follows, that the line, being interpreted, means, What! an enemy! What! an enemy! To arms!

'Casar and Pompey, a Tragedy. [Cäsar und Pompeius.]'—A classical tragedy, chiefly remarkable because in the romantic form, a novelty now-a-days, though not of old. Beginning with the senatorial apprehensions and factious cabals in Rome upon Cæsar's advance towards the Rubicon, this piece closes with Cæsar's regrets for Pompey's murder. The several characters are well pourtrayed, but not with any such peculiar power of discrimination, as to give new interest to a somewhat old, and often dramatized story.

' Songs of England and Scotland. Vol. II.'— This is a delightful volume, much superior in our opinion to the former. The editor indeed must tic nationality of Scotchmen, who have laboured zealously to preserve every fragment of the fine old ballads of their country, from "the dust of old oblivion." A well-written historical sketch, in which is gathered together many interesting relics of the earlier songs, introduces the collec-tion very pleasantly; and the volume is worthily illustrated by a portrait of Allan Cunningham, and a vignette of Revnolds's 'Shepherd Boy.'

'Zaranai, a poem, in three cantos.'-Moorish romance in the old heroic measure, and, like many other poems, most probably published for the satisfaction of the private friends

of its author.

'The Muse and Poetess, a Lesson from Nature; and other Poems, by Emily D\*\*\*\*.'—We are sorry to say, that the muse of this poetess is the muse of bad grammar.

'The British Constitution.'- An excellent summary of Constitutional History, and a candid statement of the advantages and disadvantages of the British Constitution.

'The Tourist's Companion from Leeds through Selby to Hull.'—This little book will serve the

purposes of all those who wish to take the ourney in question by rail-road or steam-

The Merchant's and Banker's Commercial Pocket Guide.'-A merchant or banker should not require the information contained in this neat little book; but to those entering the world of business it may be useful.

'Sketches of Society in Great Britain and Ire-land, by C. S. Stewart of the U.S. Navy.'— Written in a pleasant and popular style; we have no doubt these Sketches will be acceptable in America; but there is nothing in them to awaken attention in England.

' The Original.'-A new periodical which well answers to its title. It is written throughout by Mr. Walker, the police magistrate, who gossips pleasantly on all subjects, from pauperism and prison discipline, to the "art of dining," and the critical moment at which champagne should be served. The characteristic of the work is the straightforward sincerity of the writer.

'Ross's Hobart Town Almanack for 1835.'-This work necessarily comes before us a little out of date, if considered as a mere almanack, but, come when it will, it usually contains so much valuable information relating to the colony, that it is always welcome: indeed, if any one desires to be informed as to the state and prospects of Van Diemen's Land, we recommend him to get the half dozen volumes of this work, and study them attentively; he will soon find that even "an old almanack" has its value.

The Surgical and Descriptive Anatomy of the Bones, Ligaments, and Joints, by W. H. Thomas.'

—This is one of a very useful class of books, which are written to accompany the student into the lecture room, to furnish him with an abridged programme of the business of the day, to introduce him to the subject, and, by stripping technicalities of their novelty, to facilitate their re-ception and location in the storehouse of the memory. The anatomy of the bones and their appendages, standing at the very entrance of the temple of physiological and anatomic science, finds the pupil a perfect novice, and absolutely without previous conceptions, with which to compare the new ideas he is about to encounter. He is therefore in especial want of every possible assistance, in passing over this first and most rugged step in the career he has undertaken. Of this class of books, there is usually an abundance in the market; and, as they cannot possibly have a pretence to novelty of matter, they differ from each other in little more than the rela-

tive merits of arrangement. Even the presumed characteristic of Mr. Thomas's compilation-an union of the dry details of descriptive anatomy, with physiological and pathologic fact, and surgical application, is not original. It was practised by Mr. Abernethy in his lectures, and has, we believe, since been adopted by teachers in general. This universal agreement is, however, sufficient testimony to the propriety of adopting a plan so recommended. The volume, there-fore, will probably take its place with the many other "Student's Assistants," and find a ready sale among the pupils of the year. We have only to add one word of warning to the general readers of the Athenæum, against supposing that this, or any such volume, can by itself afford even the most general and elementary notions of a science, which consists altogether of facts, and cannot be studied in any other book than the great book of nature. It is only in connexion with the lecture room and the dissecting table that such publications possess the slightest utility. To purchase them, as independent and short cuts to science, to be read at off hours, is to realize the story of the man who bought Punch for the sake of his wit and powers of amusement.

. The Practice in the Liverpool Ophthalmic Infirmary, being the first special Report, by Hugh Neill. - The embodying a professional account of the practice of an eye hospital, in the report to its subscribers, is a useful and commendable novelty. From the earnestness with which the author defends publicity, we should imagine that his procedure has been censured by his rivals, as savouring of quackery; if this be so, it is a quackery of which he need not be ashamed. We shall be glad to see many such reports.

On the Medical Properties of the natural order Ranunculaceæ, &c. by A. Turnbull, M.D.'-This is a sealed book to the general public. The medicines of which it treats have too much of the "gunpowder Percy" in them, to become the subjects of domestic tamperings. The profession will recognize in Dr. Turnbull's volume, industry and modesty; and they will not be the less disposed to give a fair trial to the remedies he recommends, because he cautions them "against expecting too much from their employment."

'The Medical Student's Guide.'-A useful work to medical practitioners, who have not been well instructed in the Latin language. It contains a good grammar, and a copious selection of exercises on prescriptions.

'Italian Education, [Dell' Educazione, &c.] di Nicoli Tommasco.'—'Saggio Filosofico, &c. di Cecilia de Luna Folliero.'—' Faults of Italian Domestic Education, [Intorno ad alcuni difetts &c.] di Agostino Giacomuzzi.'- Miss Edgeworth in Italian, [Prime Lezioni di Maria Edge-worth, traduzione.]'—We announce these several publications, not because they possess any extraordinary merit, for, in truth, those that are not common-place, at least in this educating country, are somewhat fantastical; but because we re joice to see such evidence, that the public mind in Italy is bestowing the much-needed attention upon this important subject.

Reisender's German Master.'-A practical introduction to the German language; it will be found useful by students who endeavour to teach themselves, or who have received only

limited instructions from a tutor.

Wickes's Practical School Grammar.'-One of the works that induce us to wish for the return of the days of Henry VIII., when the compilation of new grammars was prohibited as

' The Child's Guide to Knowledge.'-Whoever loves his child will choose a guide possessing a greater developement of the organ of or-der. Such a jumble of subjects we never saw

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### ORIGINAL PAPERS

MADRIGAL.

The mountain winds are winnowing The primrose banks along; From bush to brake the wild birds sing; The runnel-brook, sweet murmuring Thro' flowery meadows flush with Spring, Dances to his own song.

The sun darts thro' the forest gloom, And gilds the mossy stems; The gray rocks buried in the broom Peep from their yellow-waving tomb, And hawthorn bud and heathy bloom Scatter the ground with gems.

See! in the sharp wind, blossom bare, The glistening holly glows! The wild-rose stands with virgin air Blushing at her own beauty rare; And lily, still more fearful fair, Scarce her white bosom shows!

Hark! in each honey-bed you pass, The burning hum of bees! The ant-hill swarms, a rustling mass! While in the brittle, singed grass, Dan Sol doth break the cricket's glass And drinks the dewy lees!

To sorrel beds the conies stray,
The goats to upland sheen,
With mossy horns the wild deer play
Twisting their heads in quiet fray,
The white lambs browse and bounce away,
The ox lies on the green.

O Ranger of the sunny hills,
How blissful it must be,
Amid the steepy rocks and rills,
Where Joy his horn of amber fills,
Fresh as from heaven the dew distills,
To live awhile with thee!

G. D

### POETRY AND PROSE.

Ora life is divided between poetry and prose; or, to speak more critically, we have a two-fold existence, the poetic and the prosaic, for we may take two views of life and the things of life, viz. a prose view and a poetic view. The former regards the mere physical life, the visible, the gross, the tangible; but the latter has to do with the imagination and the affections, mixed up with a little of what some people would call dreaminess—by the way, dreaming is pure poetry—softening down the harshness of reality, as distance beautifies the landscape. The Past is poetry; hence the pleasures of memory, for it is delightful to remember what it was not delightful to remember what it was not delightful to remember what it was not delightful to experience. The Future is poetry; hence the pleasures of hope—which

Bids the lovely scenes at distance hail! The Present also, by the instrumentality of fancy, may become poetry; hence the pleasures of imagination. Distance of time and distance of place produce, as every one knows, nearly the same effect. We make much of an old acquaintance whom we have not seen for twenty or thirty years; and, as Sterne observes, a neighbour, whom we hardly notice at home, we should greet most cordially if we met him rambling among the pyramids of Egypt. This effect is exactly the converse of the saying, that familiarity breeds contempt. We are creeping into metaphysics, but there is no help for it, and we shall soon get out of them again; here, now, we are led into the difference between poetry and prose. Poetry is distant, formal, reverent,prose is familiar, free, how-d'ye-de-ish; hence we see why ludicrous poetry is, of all forms of composition, most ludicrous, viz. from the strong contrast between the habitual and essential reverence of poetry, and the familiar laughingness of quiz and joke. Hence, also, we may come to

know how it is that poetry is at a discount in the present day; it is in consequence of the great quantity of knowingness that prevails: we are familiar with everything, therefore we reverence nothing.

The sea, the sea, the open sea,

is not a very poetic object to the people who keep bathing machines at Ramsgate or Margate.

Poetry at the present day is also at a discount, because men's minds are not in general reverentially disposed :- there is a spirit of rude investigation abroad; and when a whole nation resolves itself into a general court of inquiry, there is little inclination for the embellishments of poetry. Inquiry has its eyes open, and its heart closed, - poetry closes its eyes and opens its heart. Inquiry comes close to its object, poetry sees it to most advantage at a distance. Inquiry is calculating, poetry is uncalculating. Inquiry is suspicious, captious, and ever on the look-out for faults and imperfections; poetry is confiding, gentle, seeking for beauties, making beauty still more beautiful, and, like charity, covering a multitude of sins. I think that the late William Hazlitt said, that poetry was essentially aristocratic and right royal\_now, as the present popular feeling is somewhat antiaristocratic, poetry is not in very high repute. Poetry has never flourished much in republics. I do not say that persons living in a republic have never written good poetry, but the community has not heartily enjoyed it. The author of Paradise Lost was a republican, but that poem did not come into universal repute till the courtly days of Queen Anne. The reign of Queen Elizabeth was an age of poetry; and of our modern poets, the two most popular were a lord and a It now requires a very high and lofty spirit to command attention to poetry: there is no absolute or constitutional incapacity for enjoying it, but there is an accidental inaptitude to receive it. We may be a people of very good capacity, but we are not a capacious people; we cannot receive many things at once, nor anything long; we must have our wonder of the hour, and it must not last longer than the hour.

Poetry and prose are in every thing, just as we are year happen or fancy to view it. In one of Crabbe's poems, called 'The Lover's Journey,' the lover is described regarding with admiration and poetic rapture the scene through which he ravels in hope; but as he returns in despair, the selfsame scene is viewed with the prosaic eye of dissatisfaction and disgust. This is the way with us all. When we are in a good humour, everything is poetry; but when we are sour, crabbed, and out of humour, everything is prose. Business is prose; pleasure is poetry, if we enjoy the pleasure heartily, otherwise nothing can be more prosaic than a party of pleasure. In truth, every man is his own poet.

But to revert again to the present unpopularity of poetry, there is in the world just as much poetic power and poetic capacity as ever, but poetry is not talked about—there is another topic to succeed to "How do you do?" When, however, that other topic shall be exhausted, and shall pall upon the appetite, poetry has a good chance of gaining a hearing again; and, inasnruch as there is now no taste for poetry, so a time may arrive in which there shall be no taste for prose. People now-a-days do not see the use of poetry, and there is a general opinion got abroad, that nothing is valuable that is not useful; and though the word useful is not very explicitly defined, yet there is a feeling that usefulness is confined to the material productiveness which regards the being and well being of the body. The earth is useful because it produces corn, and the miller is useful because he grinds the corn, the baker also is useful for he makes the flour eatable; sheep are useful because we can eat their flesh, and clothe ourselves with the fleece; and manufacturers are useful because they prepare clothing for us; and so on, through the whole round of society, we shall find that utility very much depends, in the popular mind, on that which has reference to the being or well being of the body. A thorough-paced Utilitarian has little regard for any of the senses except the grosser ones of feeling and taste\_and perhaps smell : he will allow the usefulness of what concerns these senses, but, as to hearing and seeing, he is somewhat indifferent-he cannot exactly see the use of Painting and Music; flowers look pretty, but then flowers are of no use. I have of a man who, looking at a bed of tulips, asked, "When will they be fit to eat?" He was a perfect Utilitarian. He had no apprehension of poetry—he was the petrified impersona-tion of utter prose. The decided Utilitarian, if he would acknowledge it, sees not the use of mind except as the instrument of minding the main chance. He considers eyes as made to save noses and chins, and cars as principally constructed with reference to cabs and omnibuses, and to give hints to get our of their way. If, however, with an effort of liberality he concedes that Painting and Music are clegant recreations and ornaments of life, yet still he sticks to the sensual side of non-sensualities: he prefers the painting that speaks merely to the bodily eye, and the music that addresses itself solely to the bodily ear. To the poetry of either the one or the other he is utterly in-

As, then, everything in nature has two sides —the prose and the poetic—and it now hap-pens that the prose side is uppermost, the day may come when people, having inquired a little more minutely into the use of utility, shall give poetry the predominance, and it may be felt that poetry, so far from being the accident, is the essence of being. As every individual can regard the same object, at different times and under various circumstances, poetically and prosaically, so a whole people may fluctuate in its feelings and emotions-it may grow weary of the dulness of analysis, and the dryness of reality, and the brutishness of sensuality, and of the coxcombry of philosophicality, and may become imaginative and poetic. And then again it may be tired of cant, and declamation, and visions, and raptures, and so again sink down into realities and utili-Such are the alternations of prose and

SKETCHES OF THE LITERATURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY THE REV. TIMOTHY FLINT. (Continued from p. 803.)

In grouping together the many scholars and writers among us, who aim not at the reputation of professional writers, but at being able on an emergency, or at their choice, to produce the best or at least the most laboured essays, we sort of writings, which seems to have reached Sancho's luxury, and become the superfine siftings, the "better bread than that which is made of wheat."

The North American Review was the gradual developement of various minor reviews, which had previously existed. Its origin dates as far back as 1815. It has already extended to nearly fifty volumes. It has been sustained for the most part with great spirit, and English critics sometimes admit, that it does honour, not only to our country, but to the literature of the language. Its contributors are generally composed of the choicest scholars and writers of Boston and of Massachusetts. Its articles seldom dwell much in analytical criticism, but enter into abstract discussions of the subject of the book reviewed. It is much less bitter in spirit than the London and Edinburgh Quarterlies, but is at the same time more cold, exact, restrained, cautious—or as the French would say, retenue. Sometimes,

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however, its gravity relaxes, and its matter is sufficiently mordant.

Its style is, as near as possible, in the fashion of its English prototypes; in fact, it surpass them in that peculiarity of modern writing, which may be called "The Review style," and in which it is itself transcended by the Philadelphia Quarterly. We might evade any attempt at a definition by calling it a je ne sais quoi grandeur, an indescribable magniloquence; a sort of stately rounding of long sentences, full of doubts, and intermediate members, and subjunctives, with a touch of oracular ambiguity, raising the impression, that the writer wore a presentation dress, with a wig, and so much fur and robe and furbelow and velvet, as to make him resolve, feeling rather grand and incumbered himself, that the reader should not fail in due homage to his transient aristocracy, nor altogether escape helping him bear a portion of the burdensome tithe of magnificence. We have attempted to imagine the criticism which Dean Swift, and Oliver Goldsmith, so direct, so transparent, so beautifully simple in their style, would have passed upon this modern review writing.

Among those who have conducted this re-spectable Quarterly, Jared Sparks deserves a high place. Like Edward Everett, who has also edited this journal, he was originally a Unitatarian clergyman, and probably in that profession acquired the habit of bestowing severe inspection and carefulness upon his writings, which are rather distinguished by judgment, accuracy, and directness, than brilliancy of imagi-nation. He has attained a high and deserved reputation, as the editor of various useful works, and has acquitted himself to the entire satisfaction of the public, as the collector and publisher of the unedited correspondence of Washington, and other diplomatic writings of the period of that great man. It would be easy to name other scholars, who have filled a large space in public estimation as writers, that have been co-editors, or chief contributors for this journal, and who would deserve ample mention in a more extended

view of our subject.

The other Review, the American Quarterly, of Philadelphia, has been of much more recent establishment, not having existed more than five or six years. It has also had the reputation of being ably sustained. The writing aims to be more magnificent than that of the North Ameri-In reaching at courtly grandeur, it sometimes becomes sesquipedalian. Johnson and Parr are the models, not nature and simplicity. The department of poetry in this journal, is said to be peculiarly intrusted to a Doctor M'Henry, who has given it a most unenviable notoriety, by attempting to vilify the highest efforts of American poetry, particularly those of Bryant. Himself, the author of a wretched poem, we think, entitled, 'The Pleasures of Friendship,'—either the dullest namby-pamby, or the undigested surfeit of stolen fragments of verse, so little disguised by having passed through his mind, as, when eructed again, to bear, like the Botany Bay plate, the ciphers and marks of the original owners,-he has stood in the critical sewer, and successively besmeared and abused every good article of verse from the American press, and has only found praise for some poetry, of which the authors themselves have long since been ashamed. Neither the ancient Zoilus, the modern Lintot, nor any hero of the Dunciad, was more redoubtably terrible in the use of terms of abuse, than this same critic; and as we have good hope, that this our notice of the vilifier of Bryant will reach his eye, we do not despair of the only praise which such a mind can bestow, the outpouring of the whole of his copious vocabulary

of terms of aspersion and contempt. Of Mr. Walsh, the acknowledged editor of the Philadelphia Quarterly, no genuine friend of the literature of the country can speak in other terms than those of respect. He is, in point of age, industry, perseverance, and amount of his various literary labours, the acknowledged patriarch of American literature. He writes with force and judgment, and has all the tact of long and ample experience in judging and writing. His taste seems to incline him to the style of such writers as Parr; and his preference appears to be stateliness, rather than directness and simplicity. He has been charged with undue liking for England ; yet his 'Appeal,' his most laboured and voluminous work, is a rather pungent vindication of the United States, against the aspersions of British writers and politicians. His editorship of one of the most extensively circulated gazettes in the Union, has done him great credit. It is rather surprising, that such a man would allow his name to be identified with Dr. M'Henry's, as co-editor. But he is said to be bitter, perhaps in consequence of temperament and the infirmity of ill health; and when offended, to be little restrained by moderation and a sense of justice. His offences must, in such case, be more rank than the other's; for when he allows himself to vilify merit, he must know what he is doing.

A Quarterly Review was commenced and sustained about two years at Charleston, South Carolina, with distinguished vigour and ability; and though some of the articles wore the stamp of pedantry and artificiality, others were eloquent, spirited, and deserving, The late lamented Grimké, and Cooper, president of Columbia College, were among the principal contributors. But although this work was highly honourable to the talent and learning of the southern country, that section of the United States has hitherto proved still less disposed to show permanent and efficient patronage to literature, than the middle and northern divisions. In regard to support, the work languished from the commencement, and soon died.

But we are admonished to hasten to the last division of these sketches, that of American Poetry. We consider the poetry of a country the best index of its literature, in fact, the only one by which the intellectual elevation of one country, compared with another, can be measured. However the language of poetry may have been the natural expression of thought in the first periods of the formation of society, and a form of writing anterior to prose, the order of things in modern time and society is reversed, and the elegance, the splendour and luxury of thought, stand in the same relation to the matter-of-fact writings of prose, as the perfection of the orders of architecture to the first habitations, in which shelter and convenience only were considered. Society must be far advanced before its members think of proceeding beyond the necessity of household thinking, to the creation of new worlds of idealism, in which the mind, basking in the luxury of meditation and repose, enjoys the eternal sunshine kindled from its own brightness, and exults in the contemplation of a new and more glorious order of things, more beautiful forms, and a higher moral aim, enriching the wearying sterility of the actual world, by the conquest of new heavens, and a new earth of the conceivable and possible. We believe, that in just so far as a country is advanced in taste, in just thought, enlargement of mind, and kindness of feeling, it will generate and patronize poetry; for poetry, sprung from genius, enthusiasm and sensibility, is identified with virtue and religion-in fact, is but another form of the religious sentiment, is the band that unites the past with the future, the present with the absent, the living with the dead, the inspiration of friendship, virtue, magnanimity, high thought, and glorious achievement. Its world being purely ideal, its contemplations beautiful dreams, its objects foreign to the pursuits of interest and gain, the Utilitarian excludes it from his theory, the Owenite from his parallelo-

grams, the modern man from his political economy, his corporate projects, absorbing selfishness, his locomotives and railways, his exact sciences and physical improvements. But every great country will create, love, and foster poetry : and, so long as it does this, cannot be verging to decadence. It being the highest expression of the noblest thoughts, where much good poetry is produced, there must be seminal elements of redemption, although the land may seem in mental and moral retrograde.

On the contrary, when poetry ceases to be the language of the imagination and the heart, in a country given up to avarice and corruption, too gross to allow scope to the imagination, too hardened and heartless to feel, as happened to Rome subsequent to the era of the Mantuan, poetry begins to take the stamp of puerile conceit, riddles, prettyisms, and smooth words without ideas; and whole stanzas are seen, which, submitted to the searching process of translation, leave no more ideas behind, than the paper, on which they were written, shows words after it

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From the great amount of beautiful fugitive efforts that appear in our periodicals and news-papers, we chiefly deduced the impression, with which we commenced these sketches, that we possess an unusual endowment of capability, an uncommon proportion of mind, over which the finest gleams of inspiration pass with a power that, under every disadvantage, escapes in transient snatches of the pen, but which soon sinks under the adverse influence of everything by which it is surrounded, and only flickers for a moment to be either extinguished, or to take a new direction. The prodigious amount, too, of fugitive verse which we begin to see, turning upon nothing, tending to nothing, and ending in nothing but words and conceits, that rises round these finer efforts, like the autumnal morning fogs over our rivers, seems to us one of the signs of the times, that there is among us a strong tendency to decay and fall, before we are yet

But passing such reflections, let us for a moment contemplate the progress of American

Our primeval age was one of sermons, and prose; and the matter of fact of cutting down trees, building cabins, and making enclosures, instead of indulging the imagination. Ecclesiastical tribunals churched fair delinquents for cuting off the fingers of their gloves, and thereby exposing so much of their fair person as might prove an unholy leaven to the fancy of beholders. The first gloomy excursions of those times into the ideal world, discovered only witches and demoniacs; and nearly half a century elapsed, before our progenitors began to think much of poetry; and its first efforts were attempts to versify the psalms, after the manner of Sternhold and Hopkins, in a version entitled the 'Bay Psalm Book.' Yet even in the very earliest period of the history of Massachusetts, we find the amiable and gentle Roger Williams, the patriarch of Rhode Island, when cast forth into the untrodden wilderness by the persecuting spirit of the Puritans, who had only escaped persecution themselves to show that they had perimentally learned the lesson to practise it on others, cheering his solitary journey through the wild woods, as he sought the hospitality of the red men, in the following quaint verses, that we give for the curiosity of being the first poetry, except the version of the Psalms to which we have referred, produced in New England, which has come to our knowledge.

Ome to our knowledge.

Lost many a time, I ve had no guide,
No house, but hollow tree;
In storny winter night no fire,
No food, no company.
God makes a path, provides a guide,
And feeds in wildernesse;
His glorious name, while earth remains,
O that I may confesse.

He cultivated good faith and gentleness with the Indians, and reaped the natural fruit, kindness, in return, which he thus sings:

How kindly flames of nature burn In wild humanitie! God's providence is rich to his; Let none distrustful be. In wildernesse in great distresse, These ravens have fed me.

Hugh Peters, celebrated alike in the annals of New England and of the stormy period of the Republic of Cromwell, was a poet, so far, at least, as occasionally to write verses; and we have before us a parting legacy in verse, addressed to his children, and written in view of his approaching execution. Michael Wigglesworth, too, wrote a poem about 1700, called 'The Last Day,' which had many editions. Phillis Whately, a negro slave belonging to a Boston lady of the latter name, at a period some years in advance of the Revolution, showed such a singular taste for poetry and making rhymes, that her mistress caused her to be instructed. Gentle, affectionate, docile, she gained the entire regard of her mistress, who raised her to a sort of equality and companionship in the family; and the sable devotee of the muses proved that learning and talent do not neces-sarily spoil a servant, for she remained as humble and obedient as before. Her verses, which have been printed, are only remarkable from the circumstances under which they were produced.

At that period, and even before, had commenced the extraordinary American developement of a propensity for fugitive poetry. From that time to this, the Poets' Corners of the gazettes have always been filled with these efforts. It would not now be an easy task to rescue from oblivion these hundreds of names of votaries of the muse, who have perished with their works from memory. One name of that period remains, that of Mr. Alsop, of Connecticut, who was the poet of the day at the time of the Revolution. His taste seems to have been for satire; and the collection of his works makes a small volume.

The period subsequent to the Revolution commenced a new era in our literature, in poetry as well as prose. From that time we began to have writers, who, in common parlance, bore the name of poets, who showed higher flights and bolder aims than their predecessors.

Conspicuous among them is the venerable Philip Freneau, who opened a poetical vein of great spirit and beauty, and for a long period put forth effusions which bore the stamp of a chaste taste and an inventive mind. He was, if our recollection serves, (for we write entirely from memory,) the author of the beautiful lines on an Indian boy, who was sent to be educated at Harvard University. The lines commence with this stanza—

From Susquehannah's farthest springs, Where savage tribes pursue their game, His blanket tied with yellow strings, A shepherd of the forest came.

The piece charmingly describes the strange repulsiveness of the whole scene to the son of the forests—the unceasing craving of his spirit for his ancient haunts and pursuits; which, his education finished, he resumed the first time his soul expatiated on his return to the forests of Susquehannah's farthest springs. We do not know that an entire collection of his writings has been made. Certainly he does not occupy his deserved place in the thoughts of the American people as one of our first and best poets.

Trombull, of Connecticut, wrote, with various other poems, 'M'Fingal,' a poem in the manner of Hudibras, and in many places hardly inferior to that chef-d center of the doggrel satirical. Col. Humphrey, (the friend and aid of Washington during the Revolutionary War, and afterwards minister to Spain,) wrote, in conjunction with Hopkins, Barlow, and Trombull, 'The Anar-

chiad.' He produced a number of fugitive poems on various subjects, which were rather respectable for their taste and composition, than for the manifestation of the true inspiration of poetry, Of the 'Conquest of Canaan,' and other poems, of Dr. Dwight, we have already spoken.

Among our poets, Barlow claims the honour of the first essay of attempting an epic in 'The Vision of Columbus.' An epic in ten syllable rhymes was, in itself, a preposterous conception. Such wearying recurrence of verses, the one matched to the other, from a rhyming dictionary, and formed on the sweet melody of Pope, without the tact and sense, needed not the machinery of the Pantheon, so ridiculous in modern poetry, nor the river god of the Delaware to aid Washington in crossing that stream to the victory at Trenton, to render it tiresome and burlesque. Notwithstanding, it was most vehemently lauded by some French critics (among them, one no less than the Abbé Gregoire), it died a natural death. Nevertheless, there are some beautiful passages even in this poem. Barlow had talent, and that of a respectable class. His 'Hasty-Pudding, and other minor poems, evince it. In the earlier period of his writings, it was his fortune to be exalted to the clouds; and when at length the public mind had drank into a higher taste, the re-action sank the estimate of his writings too low. Every one has heard the fate of this endowed man, once the theme of universal eulogy as a poet; and that, as American minister to France, he died under the severity of a Polish winter, while pursuing the steps of Bonaparte in those inhospitable climates.

Robert Treate Paine, of Boston, who fell so early and so much lamented, gave promise of high attainment in the line of lyric and patriotic odes,—some of his effusions of that sort, called forth on particular occasions, not having been since surpassed. Few who lived at the time can forget the poetic and patriotic enthusiasm with which, on the 4th of July, the people used to sing, 'Ye sons of Columbia,' &c. It was the Marseillaise Hymn—the 'Ça Ira'—the national ode of the time. 'Hail, Columbia! happy land,' was another national ode of his. Mr. Paine, had he known and improved his powers, would have proved a poet in the high and appropriate sense of the word.

But these, with a hundred other sons of song, whose names might be given, have passed away. We come to notices of those that actually exist, that walk in their brightness in efforts often repeated, or that scintillate for a few times in the Gazettes and Souvenirs, and retire. Let not the reader startle, when we assure him, that the names of these persons known to the public, as writers of verse, exceed two hundred !\_\_not to mention at least two hundred more, who perpetrate anonymous efforts! Four hundred sacred poets, and yet incur the sneer of English critics as wanting a literature! We know not but England can show thrice the number, who assume to be gifted with song; but we doubt if any country ever possessed at one time twenty persons worthy of that high appellation. Confident we are, that while a few are called for, to elevate the tone of public thought, and inspire the enthusiasm of religion, virtue, and self-sacrifice, four hundred is a prodigious supernumerary corps. Not to be cheap, verse should not be common; nor desecrated by the intermeddling of every one that can string rhymes, under the error of supposing vanity inspiration. Neither gods nor men allow mediocrity in this walk.

It gives us pleasure to remark, that American poetry almost universally bears the stamp of purity and respect for the domestic virtues, for piety and religion. Our poets, as far as they have shown inspiration, evince that they are imbued with the love of goodness, truth, and beauty; that they have strung their lyres in the

exultation of the glorious hope of immortality; that they aim to purify public thought, rather than debauch it; and that they have drunk from those perennial fountains that flow fast by the throne of God. Whether it result from respect for public opinion, or from a more elevated and chastened spirit in our poets, we cannot say; but it has not been our fortune to see bacchanalian or licentious verses of American origin :-- a strange contrast of intelligence and delicacy. touching the great claims of morality and propriety, with the ribald and wanton disregard of all truth and decency that pervades almost the whole tissue of our transient party writings. Is it that men, who leave for an hour the scramble of gain and elections, feel, as they enter the consecrated haunts of the Muses, that they are bound to put off their shoe, as conscious that they stand in the public eve on holy ground?

[Here again we must make large omissions. Bryant, Dana, Percival, and the living poets generally, had full justice done to them in the former series.]

(To be concluded on Saturday next.)

\*.\* On the 14th November will be published the first Paper on The Turkish Literature of the Nineteenth Century, by Ritter Joseph Von Hammer.

#### MR. THOMAS HEAPHY.

This once fashionable artist died on Friday the 23rd. We are old enough to remember when the water-colour drawings of Mr. Heaphy were the "admired of all beholders;" when the crowded corner in the then exhibition room at Spring Gardens, told surely enough where his pictures were hung. We are of opinion, that at that time Mr. Heaphy enjoyed more patronage than any artist of his day, excepting, perhaps, Lawrence; and there can be few of the collections of our nobility, in which his works are not to be found. The principal pictures are two of Fishmarkets; 'A Blind Man soliciting Alms;' The Cheat at Cards ; 'The Sore Leg;' the portraits of the late Princess Charlotte, Prince Leopold, and of Queen Caroline, to whom he was appointed "Portrait Painter in Ordinary;" and a large picture containing portraits of the Duke of Wellington and about fifty field officers, the print from which is well known, though the original has never been exhibited.

Mr. Heaphy was, we believe, in his 60th year when he died. We know nothing of his family, and little of his early life. He was brought up an engraver, but soon devoted himself to watercolour painting, and was either among the founders or earliest members of the old Water Colour Society. He was, however, a somewhat intractable man; at least, we infer so, for he was always opposed to the Royal Academy-soon seceded from the Water Colour Society, and after lending a willing hand to the establishment of the Society of British Artists, of which he was the first president, he almost immediately withdrew from it. Since then indeed he has been little before the public. In 1831, he, for the first time visited Italy, where he made many admirable copies from the more celebrated works of art; and this may be considered as the close of his professional life.

Mr. Heaphy was undoubtedly a man of talent—he studied nature, and his works possess much simplicity and truth, delicacy of colouring and appropriate expression. But his talent was by no means exclusively confined to art, he was equally at his ense, whether quarrying for stone, constructing a pleasure-boat, building a house, devising an improved axle, or laying down a railway. Those who knew him in private life bear testimony to his worth—He had many peculiarities, they say, and but few faults.

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# OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

We have little novelty to announce—less to remark upon; the novelty, however, (we allude to Mr. Bulwer's forthcoming novel of 'Rienzi.') is one of such good promise as may content our readers, though it be the solitary rumour of the week. The historical work on which Mr. Bulwer has been long engaged, is, we hear, to be kept back for a time.—Mr. Hook's 'Apothecary' should be nearly ready; and we know of a third work of fiction in progress, perhaps in the press, the name whereof we must keep to ourselves for awhile.—but which, if we, augur rightly, will prove worthy to bear company with the poetical romance of the first-named writer, and the broad and searching every-day rumour of the latter.

Laporte, we hear, has gone to Germany to seek for a prima doma for the earlier part of his next season, who is to sing well, and cost little. Success go with him—but, from what we hear, our hopes are not very sanguine; unless he brings us a certain Mademoiselle Van Hasselt, of whose powers and promise we heard a good account some months ago: or engage De Meric, the purest and most generally useful singer whom we have had for many years. Talking of the Opera reminds us that Madame Albertarzi, who made her début in Paris the other day, appears to have met with but little success, owing to her extreme timidity; and as we are in Paris, we may as well add, that Casimir Delavigne's new comedy, 'Don Juan d'Autriche' is said to be as fortunate as the former works which have proceeded from his heard.

We observe by the Italian papers that the History of Ancient Liguria and Genoa, by the Marchese Serra, lately published, has been compressed into a poem, by Gian Carlo di Negro.

### FINE ARTS

The Book of Gems. The Poets and Artists of Great Britain. Edited by S. C. Hall. Saunders & Otley.

This sumptuous book has, by its double nature, somewhat perplexed us; but as it is impossible even to touch upon the glorious names of the poets of England whose selected works form its contents, we will even put a strong rein on our pen-and, leaving them "alone in their glory," confine ourselves to the embellishments by which they are illustrated; -- no less than fiftythree in number. The first thing in the booka sketch by Mulready, from Chaucer, is much to our taste. The poet is gazing, enchanted, on the "world of ladies" whose "beauty grete" he immortalized in his legend of the 'Floure and Leafe.' The drawing has a quaint gracefulness, which suits its subject well.—Inskipp's lady in the coif, who presides over Hawes' 'Pastime of Pleasure,' is sweet and intelligent; she could hardly be mistaken for one of the beauties whose operatic charms and graces have set modern minstrels singing:-and it is no small merit to be able to cast off, as a garment, the affectations of these our days, when even science, as some one or other has observed, " is degraded by man-millinery."-Hofland's scene on the Thames, to illustrate the gallant Surrey's captivity in Windsor, is steeped in the luxurious calm of evening; and Goodall has rendered its spirit well. Indeed, the engravers who have laboured for this volume, as a body, deserve high praise.—Vere's 'Fancy and Desire' is charmingly illustrated by an engraving after Westmacott:—Gascoigne's 'Voyage into Holland,' by a shipwreck scene, engraved by Miller, after Wilson, which, we must say, (a rare case,) leaves the poem behind.—The dark-locked, meek-eyed lady, who presides over the verse of the accomplished Raleigh, is also worthy of her place. She owes her parentage (in reality, we

suspect, as well as art,) to Howard.-Lord Brooke's 'Treatise on Warres' is headed by a spirited group after Cooper.-Briggs has contributed a fine design to Drayton's Polyolbion. -To Shakespeare's Sonnets is prefixed a drawing of the dramatist himself, in his study, by Boaden.—We cannot pass the beautiful rilievo after Bailey, above the selections from Davies, without a word of praise .- Donne, the ultrafantastic, is graced by another shipwreck scene, after Prout; and sweet, artless Psyche, by Sir William Beechey, smiles upon a fragment from one of rare Ben Jonson's 'Masques at Court. -Perhaps the most beautiful landscape in the collection, is by Callcott-a scene of ruined temples on "Egypt's river," to accompany Drummond's 'Instability of Mortal Glory.' poetical is it, that we can afford to pass the next designs which follow, till we alight in the chamber of Herrick's Julia—exquisitely pourtrayed by Cattermole. Who that has ever troubled or solaced himself with love-poetry can forget his delicious and fanciful song?-

Her eyes the glow-worme lend thee. The shooting starres attend thee, And the elves alsoe, Whose little eyes glow Like sparks of fire, befriend thee.

Stanfield has taken charge of quaint, pleasant, old Quarles, and done his duty well in a scene of eastern ruins. But, to us, the gem of the book is, the illustration of Shirley's 'Death's Final Conquest,' by Wilkie. It shows the interior of an ancient church—gloomy, mouldering, and solemn,-with a faint light streaming down from a high window upon a funeral group.— Waller's 'Lines to a very Young Lady' have been appropriately mated with an engraving from Sir Joshua's 'Girl with a Dog;'-Milton's 'L'Allegro' and 'Pensieroso' desecrated by an extravagant affectation, by M'Clise, in which the goddess of mirth points her toe and arches her figure like an opera-dancer; while the "goddess sage and holy" stalks away from her (and no wonder!) in an attitude of queenly scorn, no less theatrical. We regret to see a man of such undoubted talent as Mr. M'Clise make so ridiculous a use of his fancy.-Franklin's cupids on the battlements of a fortress, who stand at the head of the verse of that ruffling gallant Sir John Suckling, has restored us to good humour again: it is very graceful and spirited. Poor Liverseege !- the girl reading Hudibras's letter-a perfect Audry, with her smile of gaping, country pleasure, and her clouterly shoes-reminds us, that in one particular vein of humour we have lost a master who will not be presently replaced. Crashaw and Cowley are both of them gracefully illustrated; the first, by a Lady at prayer in an oratory, after Penry Williams; the second, by a river scene, after Cooke. Rothwell has contributed a Child basking on the grass in a garden, which Marvell's verses 'To T. C., in a Prospect of Flowers,' follow:—Stothard, a Venus rising from the sea-one of the most exquisite and poetical of his classical designs-to the poems of Sir Charles Sedley; and Sir Martin Shee, an infant Bacchus, to those of Rochester. Lastly, we must notice and commend Davis's lady on horseback, with the hawk on her wrist,-the concluding vignette of the volume, if we except the very pretty wreath of flowers which closes, as the other prefaces, the specimens of poetry of Mat. Prior.

And here we must close our hasty remarks. It is only fair, however, to add to what we have said, that the biographical notices added by Mr. Hall, to the several "gems" drawn from the large treasury of English poetry, are done in good taste. The volume, too, is worthily concluded by an all but perfect series of engraved autographs,—the few names that are wanting, not being to be found (we are told) in any of the most perfect collections.

#### THEATRICALS

DRURY LANE.
This Evening, THE SIEGE OF ROCHELLE; after which (first
on Monday, O'THELLO.

O'THELLO.

COVENT GARDEN.
This Evening, PAUL CLIFFORD; after which PADDY CAREY; with THE IRISH AMBASSADOR.
On Monday, JONATHAN BRADFORD.

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.
On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, A new Melo-drama entitled WOMAN'S FAITH; after which A NEW FARCEITA; to conclude with THE MILLER'S MAID.

DRURY LANE. This house, the public's " National Theatre," as, riding rough-shod over its half-price neighbour, it styles itself in the bills, has not reduced its prices. It has merely volunteered a promise not to raise them—this is some-thing! It has been better attended than usual at so early a period of the season, and novelties on novelties are announced. A new melo-drama by Mr. Planché, called 'The Travelling Carriage.' was presented on Monday last, and favourably received. It is an agreeable performance, and will, no doubt, roll on by easy stages for many nights to come. Mr. Bunn's last stroke of theatrical diplomacy, was the engagement of an Irish performer of the name of Macarthy to establish the "balance of Power" with Covent Garden. Mr. Macarthy appeared on Monday last, in the character of *Dr. O'Toole*. He has a good brogue, seems quite at ease in his duties, and he was in good favour with his audience in two minutes.

COVENT GARDEN.—This house opened on Monday week under the management of Mr. Osbaldiston. The prices of admission have been reduced one half; and up to the present time we hope and believe that the experiment has been successful, though quantity has, to a considerable extent, supplied the place of quality. It is, however, far too early to judge of the probable permanent effect of the experiment; we must wait until the excitement produced by novelty has passed away. The theatre, on the first night, was crowded to suffocation, so that, after witnessing the enthusiastic reception of Mr. Charles Kemble, we were glad to make our escape. Mr. Power returned to this establishment on Monday last, and was cordially received.

ADELPHI.-Two new comic pieces have been represented at this house since our last report, and both of them have been and continue to be well received. In the first, called 'The Yellow Kids,' Mr. Webster made his first Adelphi bow and displayed so much original humour as, in our opinion, clearly to entitle him to be taken by the press out of the class of "useful actors' and to be placed among the attractives. It is long since we have had a heartier laugh. piece itself has a great deal of fun about it, and we should think it likely to have a run ;-what do we mean by "likely"? It is having a run. The other novelty called 'The King's Command' is inferior, but Mrs. Keeley popped it on her shoulders (super humeros) and ran away with it so humorously that the audience, constrained to follow her, laughed without having time to stop and inquire why they did so. This piece founded another claim to the good-will of the Adelphi audience on the fact of its introducing to them Mr. Frederick Vining, the old-established favourite from the Haymarket. The revising barristers instantly admitted the claim; we hope to have a favourable report to make next week of a new piece announced for Monday next, written, we believe, by Mr. Oxenford, a young dramatic author of rising popularity.

OLYMPIC.—A new piece, from the pen of Mr. Jerrold, was produced at this theatre on Monday last, entitled, 'The Man's an Ass!' It has gone to the tomb of the Capulets, and, therefore, we should abstain from noticing it, but that we think, like Romeo and his lady love, it has been un-

timely sent thither-that the management has given it poison, not suffered it to die a natural death. We admit that the subject chosen by Mr. Jerrold was not a happy one, and that no talent in the writing could have made it permanently popular as a dramatic entertainment for an English audience: but we consider that an author, standing so well before the public, should not have had his drama unceremoniously thrust out of the bills upon the strength, or, rather, upon the weakness, of certain hisses from a small minority of the audience; it ought at least to have had one more trial, particularly as it was most tastefully and admirably put upon the stage as to scenery, dresses, and appointments, and supported by the acting of Mr. Liston, Mr. Keeley, Mr. F. Matthews, and Miss Glover. If this piece had had five times its faults, they should all have been forgiven, rather than suffer so rich and racy a bit of acting as Mr. Matthews's starveling Friar to have been lost to the stage.

#### MISCELLANEA

Proposed Harbour at Douglas, Isle of Man .- In 1826, Sir William Hillary drew public attention to the national importance of a great central harbour for the Irish seas, and he pointed out Douglas, in the Isle of Man, as offering the principal advantages. On the northern coast of Wales, excepting Holyhead, and the south parts of Scotland, as far as the Mull of Galloway, there is not a single harbour which can at low water afford shelter to vessels in distress; yet within this range, Sir William observes, lies Liverpool, at which arrive annually more than 12,000 vessels, besides Lancaster, Whitehaven, Maryport, Workington, and various other ports to which belong collectively not less than onethird of the commercial navy of the Empire, added to which, these seas are navigated by the numerous shipping of the Clyde, and the west of Scotland, also the whole coasting trade of the east of Ireland. Considerable property, and many lives are also engaged in the fishing trade. The Manx herring fleet alone is registered at 250 vessels, averaging from 25 to 30 tons, and navigated by upwards of 2000 men, besides the numerous vessels, even so far as from Cornwall and Devenshire, which assemble there during the season. We are glad to see that this subject has been revived, and we learn from the Mona Herald, in which Sir William Hillary's pamphlet has been republished, that Sir John Rennic has been employed in surveying the ports of the island, and has recently published a report, accompanied by plans for the accomplishing of the object. We infer from the statements, that the estimated expense of erecting the breakwater, &c. would not exceed 200,0001. or 250,000%, within which there would be a fine basin, with excellent anchorage, of from forty to fifty acres, having various depths from 34 to 29 feet at the lowest ebb. Sir William Hillary, in a note attached to the original pamphlet, states, that within ten years property to an amount beyond half a million has been lost on the coast of the island and the adjoining seas, by the wreck of vessels which would certainly have found refuge within a breakwater in Douglas Bay; that in a single week, in November, 1834, besides thirteen persons, vessels and their cargoes, exceeding the value of 60,0001., were lost in Ramsay Bay, and on the Castletown coast, all of which had passed Douglas Bay in search of shelter.

Effects of Earthquakes on the Currents of the Ocean.—We observe, that on the trial last week of Captain Seymour, for the loss of the Challenger, a letter from Captain Fitzroy, of the Beagle, surveying ship, was read to the Court, detailing the observations of that scientific officer upon the alterations of the currents and tides, and often contrary set of them, on the West coast of South America, consequent

upon the frequent earthquakes which had occurred in that quarter, it having been ascertained that, from the middle of February last, not a day had intervened without a motion of the earth having been felt in one quarter or another. The evidence of the Captain of the Swedish ship Aurora, given by Commodore Mason, was also exhibited, in which it was shown that he thought he was far off from the land when he was warned of the danger of his situation by the two guns fired by the Challenger on the morning after the wreck. It further appears by the sentence of the court, that the loss was occasioned by the ship being then by an unusual and unexpected current, set between noon of the 17th of May last to the time of her wreck, on the 19th of the same month, 34 miles of latitude to the southward, which latitude, by dead reckoning up to the time of taking the sights, being used to work the sights of the chronometer, on the morning of the 19th of May, placed the ship 60 miles to the N.W. of her actual position at that

Dangerous Shoal in the China Sea .- We did not expect to have it in our power so soon to direct the attention of our geographers and mariners to another of these unknown dangers. Owen's Shoal, in latitude 8° 8' N., longitude 111° 59' E. by two chronometers, agreeing, in a run of ten days from Macao, discovered May 11th, 1835, by captain Owen, commander of the Ship David Scott, on the passage from Canton river, to-wards England, had not been previously known. He got upon the shoal, a little past noon, steering S.S.E. and S.E. by S., and had soundings in passing over it from 6 to 4 fathoms, and once had only 34 fathoms; afterwards, at 1 P.M. got no ground, being then clear of the shoal. This shoal appeared to be about two miles in extent, composed of black and white speckled coral, in a state of rapid accretion, perceived by the vitality and energy of the madrepores, observed in recent formations of large pieces of coral brought up by the lead. Whilst on the shoal, patches of variegated coral were bright and alarming; and although no appearance of breakers was discernible, the sea being then very smooth, yet in stormy weather, it probably breaks upon some of the shoal patches, when at such times a large ship would be liable to strike

North Carolina Gold Mines .- Many of the inhabitants at Concord have pieces of pure gold of various weight, one of which weighs 28lbs. The beds where the gold is discovered are of gravel, and very extensive, covered with water in the winter months, but dry in summer. The manner of searching for gold is, to take shovels and turn over the gravel, always advancing, as it is turned back, and picking up what is discoverable to the eye, by which thousands of small grains are lost, as the fingers cannot separate them from the sand. By working this over again with quicksilver, large quantities may be obtained; no machinery is required, or smelting process. The first mine was found by a son of Mr. Reed, who, in watering his horse at the creek, discovered a piece of gold quite pure. Two years after, Mr. Reed, with two partners, pursued the search for gold, with six black boys, during the short period of only six weeks. In each of the two first years they obtained 17,000 dollars, besides what was stolen from the streams, supposed to be half as much more. No attempt has been made to open the hills; they are totally unacquainted with the subject of mining .-Messrs. Morton and Bedford, of Baltimore, purchased a small tract of about 300 acres joining the lower end of Reed's purchase and mine, they gave seven dollars an acre. Governor Mercer stated that they had analyzed the sand and gravel, and found it was worth a guinea a bushel, after the lump gold was picked out. The gold as found is worth 19 dollars an ounce, while

the best East Indian and African gold dust is not worth more than from 12 to 16 dollars.—
Mr. Thomas Moore got some hiccory-nuts, and in looking for a stone to break the shell, he went to a tree that had been blown down, and picking up the first stone he found in the fresh turned up earth, finding it heavy he washed it, and found it was a piece of solid gold, which he sold for 450 dollars! He then set some men to work, and they made from two to five dollars a-day each, in grounds opposite to mine. Some of it has been sent to the mint of the United States, where they exchange it for eagles ready coined, weight for weight; but the gold-beaters give a still better price, say four per cent, it is so pure and malleable.—Mining Journal.

and malleable.—Mining Journal.

The Warlock Pear.—There is a singular story connected with the family of Lord Dalhousie which has never appeared in print. Lady Dalhousie is of the ancient family of Coulston, one of the ancestors of which, Brown of Coulston, married the daughter of the famous Warlock of Gifford, described in Marmion. As they were proceeding to the church, the wizard lord stopped the bridal procession beneath a peartree, and plucking one of the pears, he gave it to his daughter, telling her that he had no dowry to give her, but that as long as she kept that gift, good fortune would never desert her or her descendants. This was in 1270, and the pear is still preserved in a silver box. About two centuries ago, a maiden lady of the family chose to try her teeth upon it, and very soon after two of the best farms of the estate were lost in some litigation-the only misfortune that has befallen the inheritance of the Coulstons in six centuries-thanks (perhaps) to the Warlock

pear.—Willis's Pencillings.

Acudémie Française.—The prize for poetry has been awarded to M. Bignan. The subject proposed was an eulogium upon Cuvier. The Monthyon prize was bestowed upon the authors of three works. Mesrs. Aimé, Martin, and Damiron, the Laureates, received the congratulations of the Academy. A prize of 3000fr. is offered to the author of the best Essay upon moral courage.

Estienne's Cicero.—A bookseller at Orleans possesses a very rare copy of an edition of Cicero, published in 1535, by C. Estienne in that city. The margin is enriched with more than 4000 corrections in the hand-writing of H. Estienne, and another learned scholar, who only affixes his Christian name, but who is supposed to be Jean Scapula. These corrections appear to have been made with the view of publishing another edition of Cicero, probably that of which H. Estienne speaks in his Castigationes in quamplurimos locos Ciceronis, but which was never completed.—Le Voleur.

quamplarinos locos Ciceronis, but which was never completed.—Le Voleur.

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